



**Extinction Rebellion launches new wave of action across Britain**

**>>Pages 4&5**

# Socialist Worker

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# LIARS, THUGS & KILLERS

**NEW 'SPY COPS' REVELATIONS >>PAGE 6**  
**VICIOUS POLICE CRACKDOWN IN EAST LONDON >>PAGES 10&11**  
**'ARROGANT' OFFICERS KILLED ANTHONY GRAINGER >>PAGE 16**

## HISTORY

**How mission to moon projected US power**

FIFTY YEARS ago this week Neil Armstrong was the first astronaut to walk on the moon.

Gabby Thorpe looks at the Cold War rivalry, and the Nazi scientists, that stood behind the ingenuity of space travel.

**>>Pages 14&15**

## TORIES

**Both candidates are in the pocket of big business**

TORY front-runner Boris Johnson showed the extent to which he marches to the tune of the rich this week with a series of policy announcements.

He wants tax cuts for all his big business buddies but dresses them up as help for ordinary people.

**>>Page 20**

## TRUMP

**Racist outburst was president speaking from the heart**

WE'VE LONG known that Donald Trump is a bigot. His tweet last week that ethnic minority Democratic senators should "Go Home" merely confirms for millions of people across the world that he is a racist.

Prime minister Theresa May condemned the remarks.

Yet as Home Secretary she sent vans inscribed with the "Go home" message across Britain.

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## THE THINGS THEY SAY

**‘Prepared? I am almost well accustomed to it’**

Boris Johnson on whether he's prepared to be hated

**‘It won't be in the region of £27 billion, I can tell you. They might get 27p’**

Chancellor Philip Hammond on the future of school funding

**‘I greatly admire his ability to change his mind and campaign for Brexit now’**

Boris Johnson, when asked during the ITV debate about the quality he most admires in his rival Jeremy Hunt

**‘I think he has this great ability—you ask him a question, he puts a smile on your face, and you forget what the question was’**

Hunt's response to the same question

**‘Oh I do love my job sometimes’**

Traffic warden who slapped a ticket on nazi Tommy Robinson's campaign bus outside the Old Bailey



# Unite union launches probe into officials' role in blacklist

**THE UNITE union has announced the launch of an investigation into possible collusion by union officers in blacklisting. It is expected to begin in September.**

A letter written by Andrew Murray, Unite Chief of Staff, explains that the process will investigate documents disclosed during the various court cases over the scandal.

Britain's largest construction companies operated a blacklist that ruined lives.

But in a number of cases the information on workers' files came from trade union officials.

Unite has said that any official found to have colluded with blacklists will be subject to disciplinary action.

Roy Bentham is joint secretary of the Blacklist Support Group (BSG) and Unite executive member for construction. He said, "We have been calling for an investigation into possible union collusion in blacklisting for ten years."

"We are therefore very pleased that this is now taking place."

"We do not for one moment think that



Protesting against the blacklist

every union official was conspiring with construction employers against their own members, but it is simply a fact that a number of blacklist files name union officials as the source of information.

"We are not looking for a witch-hunt but this must be fully investigated."

"There is a big battle to be had in the

construction industry against companies who put profit before safety and who deny basic employment rights by engaging their workers on bogus self-employed precarious contracts.

"But this dark cloud of possible officer collusion, which has caused so much friction within the construction unions, needs to be removed once and for all."

A delegation from the BSG has met with senior officials from Unite to clarify a number of issues.

Speaking after the meeting, where the union promised transparency, joint BSG secretary Dave Smith said, "We intend to hold the union to that promise. We will be pointing the lawyers towards evidence we think is relevant, even if that upsets some people."

"We encourage any blacklisted worker who has concerns or evidence of possible union collusion to engage with this investigation, or contact BSG directly. BSG would not be involved in this process unless we thought it was capable of getting to the truth."

If you have information on the blacklist email [blacklistsg@gmail.com](mailto:blacklistsg@gmail.com)

**IN 1986, then Daily Telegraph publisher Conrad Black hired Max Hastings who, as editor, hired Boris Johnson in 1988. Baron Black says Hastings "is an ill-tempered snob with a short attention span... a coward and a flake". Perhaps. He also says Johnson "was capable, successful and reliable... a pleasant man".**

Black served 37 months for fraud. He was pardoned in May by Donald Trump.

Conrad Black

**THE BOOKSELLER magazine reports that David Cameron's life story—being posh, PR work, shadow education secretary, opposition leader, prime minister, loses referendum—takes up 700 pages. That's seven times as long as Animal Farm, also a book with an interest in pigs.**

## Billionaire paid for abuse witness silence

JEFFREY EPSTEIN, the child abusing financier, has been accused of paying £278,000 to possible co-conspirators to stop them testifying against him.

Prosecutors in New York said the money was to "influence" the unnamed people, and was paid in the past year.

They said he had a history of manipulation of witnesses.

Epstein was charged last Monday in New York with two offences including sex trafficking of minors.

He has denied the charges.

He could face up to 45 years in prison. Prosecutors accuse him of sexually exploiting dozens of girls at his homes in Manhattan, and Palm Beach, Florida,



Andrew and Epstein

between 2002 and 2005. On Friday, Alex Acosta resigned as US Labor Secretary over the 2008 secret plea deal Acosta negotiated for Epstein.

In 2010, Prince Andrew partied with Epstein just weeks after he was released. The financier threw an "intimate dinner" party with the prince and director Woody Allen where the prince was allegedly treated as a "guest of honour".

## Flat smaller than a car is given approval

A FLAT smaller than many cars and a warehouse where half the flats would have no external windows are among plans submitted by developers exploiting planning rules.

Landlords are converting offices into flats as small as 13 square metres (140 square feet).

Last year a developer in Purley, south London, had plans to convert part of a ground-floor office into two flats measuring 8.3 square metre (89 square feet) and 9 square metres (97 square feet)

approved by Croydon council.

More than 30 of the flats of the smaller size would fit on to a tennis court.

The square metre flat would measure barely two thirds of a typical parking space.

Another developer has submitted plans to convert warehouse space in Barnet, north London, into 107 flats, of which 56 would have no external windows.



## New appeal to stop Serco

SOME 300 asylum seekers in Glasgow had a brief reprieve this week.

They are fighting eviction notices by their housing provider, the privatising firm Serco.

The Govan Law Centre won the right to appeal a decision that said Serco had the right to issue eviction notices.

And the Legal Services Agency has won a stay of eviction for five asylum seekers before a full hearing in August.

On top of the evictions, Serco has a track record of allegations of bullying and intimidation of the people it houses.

A report by the

Women Asylum Seeker Housing Project (W-ASH) interviewed Serco tenants.

Some nine out of ten of those surveyed said that Serco officers had let themselves into their homes with copied sets of keys.

In some cases they reported finding Serco's officers going through their paperwork.

Shafiq Mohammed from W-ASH also said how asylum seeker housing "is best described as bargain basement that nobody else wants".

Robina Qureshi from Positive Action in Housing described how "one refugee surprised a Serco officer looking through her papers and was told, 'I'm just checking on your legal status.'"

## Chernobyl in Cumbria?

SECURITY lapses at Sellafield raise fears of a disaster "worse than Chernobyl" campaigners have warned.

The Cumbrian nuclear waste plant has logged 25 safety breaches in the past two years.

They include radiation leaking from a water pipe, and potentially harmful uranium powder being spilled.

Janine Smith of Cumbrians Opposed To A Radioactive Environment, said, "Just one error could be catastrophic. It could be worse than Chernobyl."

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# All-out strike hits London over pay and outsourcing

by NICK CLARK

**CLEANERS AND caterers at the Department for Business, Energy, Innovation and Skills (Beis) began an all-out indefinite strike this week.**

It's a big escalation in a fight by low-paid, mostly migrant workers to win a better wage.

The PCS union members walked out of their central London office to cheers from supporters at 12 noon on Monday. They've been fighting since January to get bosses at outsourcers ISS and Aramark to pay them the London Living Wage of £10.50 an hour.

Shouting, chanting and blowing plastic horns, they sent a message to their bosses—"We've had enough."

Striker Marline told Socialist Worker, "It's a bit hard to come out indefinitely. But we've been striking since January—in, out, in, out—and nothing changed."

"So we decided—we're fighting this."

Roman, a cleaner, said, "We're going to go out and leave them inside with the mess. But we're going out to deliver the message."

## Poverty

Strikers spoke of the difficulty of living in London on poverty pay.

"Living in London is struggling," said Marline. "Sometimes you think, what's the point of coming to work?"

"Costs go up every year—train costs, gas, electricity. You come into work and you can't pay your rent."

Strikers are demanding to be brought back in house. It's a fight that seems to be spreading across the civil service.

Cleaners at HMRC tax offices in Bootle and Liverpool struck on Monday and Tuesday of this week to demand a minimum of £10 an hour. They also work for ISS. And



WORKERS ON the first day of their all-out strike on Monday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

**A group of PCS union members in London are on an all-out strike—and they need your support**

● Rush messages of support to the strikers to [leeds@pcs.org.uk](mailto:leeds@pcs.org.uk)

● Donate to the strike fund—account number 20331490, sort code 608301, account name PCS Strike Fund

● Make cheques out to PCS strike fund levy and send to PCS Finance Department, Freepost, BFH1003, 160 Falcon Rd, London SW11 2BR

● Go to [pcs.org.uk](http://pcs.org.uk) for updates

outsourced cleaners, porters and maintenance workers at the Foreign and Commonwealth office have also struck over pay.

Ana, a leading striker, told a strike rally in London, "It is a disgrace the way they treat us. We get up at five in the morning to come into work and be treated like dogs."

"We have colleagues who nearly became homeless because ISS is not paying its staff—shame on you ISS, shame on you Aramark."

"We are the ones who make you rich—we are the ones who do the labour. You don't care about your staff, you just care about how much money we can put in your pockets."

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka told strikers, "Our pledge is that we stand with you as long as it takes."

And Labour's shadow chancellor John McDonnell said, "I've been on the picket line throughout the dispute and will be again until you win."

Ana told Socialist Worker strikers are determined to hit their bosses hard. "They are not listening to us."

"So this time we are going deeper, and deeper and deeper."

## What's your story?

Email with your ideas  
[reports@socialistworker.co.uk](mailto:reports@socialistworker.co.uk)

## Amazon staff stage strike

GROUPS OF Amazon workers across the world struck on Monday in protest at pay and conditions.

The action marked the first day of "Prime Day"—a two-day sales event. And it coincided with protests in Britain (see page 18).

Amazon workers in Shakopee, Minnesota, staged a six-hour walkout on Monday.

William Stolz, a picker at Amazon's Shakopee warehouse, joined the strike. He said the work there is "very mentally stressful, very physically stressful".

"These should be jobs that are safe, reliable and that people can depend on," he added.

Amazon warehouse workers say the firm's recent offer of one-day shipping to Prime customers has piled the pressure on them.

Amazon engineer Weston Fribley flew to join the walkout from Seattle.

"At root is Amazon employees not having a say in the decisions that affect their lives and their work," he said.

Other strikes hit Germany, Spain and Poland.



A Shakopee striker

## Robinson jailed after conviction

NAZI TOMMY Robinson was jailed for nine months last week after being found guilty of contempt of court. He will serve around nine weeks before being released.

Robinson had filmed outside a child sexual exploitation trial at Leeds Crown Court in May 2018 and broadcast the footage.

He admitted contempt of court and was jailed for 13 months, before being released in August and ordered to face a new hearing.

Robinson filmed one of a set of three linked child sexual exploitation trials.

A judge had imposed a ban on reporting until the last trial had finished.

Robinson claimed he was unaware of the scope of the reporting restriction. Yet in his broadcast he said, "There is a reporting restriction on this case."

## Collapse

Four days after Robinson was originally jailed for contempt of court, defence lawyers applied to discharge the jury. This could have seen the case collapse.

Judges last week found that Robinson committed contempt of court in three respects. He breached the reporting restriction, filmed the video and confronted defendants outside court.

Dame Victoria Sharp said his conduct "amounted to a serious interference with the administration of justice".

Robinson called on his supporters to "protest outside whatever prison I'm in on Saturday".

Fewer than 100 showed up outside Belmarsh prison in Thamesmead, south east London.

## Breakfast in



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[socialistworker.co.uk/breakfastinred](http://socialistworker.co.uk/breakfastinred)

## IN THIS WEEK

# 1979

## Sandinistas take over capital city

LEFT WING Sandinista supporters in Nicaragua overthrew the regime and took over the capital Managua on 17 July 1979, forcing president Somoza to resign.

The US would later wage a brutal undercover war against them.





# Extinction Rebellion launches a 'Summer Uprising'

by SARAH BATES

**EXTINCTION** Rebellion's "Summer Uprising" against climate catastrophe began on Monday morning in typically brazen fashion.

Activists from the group parked boats in the middle of five major cities.

In London, Leeds, Bristol, Cardiff and Glasgow, activists blocked roads and demanded that the government "act now" over climate change.

In London a blue boat named "Polly Higgins", after the pioneering environmental lawyer who died in April, was parked outside the Royal Courts of Justice.

## Demonstration

Around 1,000 XR supporters staged a demonstration through central London to Millennium Green in Waterloo where protesters have set up an occupation.

They chanted "whose planet—our planet" and "this is how we win" during the two hour march.

Fay had travelled from Chichester, Sussex, to be part of the action.

"When I talk to my family about this they say that it's the wrong way to go about it.

"But what is the right way? We've been trying to change governments

## BACK STORY

Direct action group Extinction Rebellion (XR) has launched a new wave of protests across Britain

● It follows an 'International Rebellion' in April this year

● XR's actions have pushed the issue of climate change to the fore—and caught a radical mood

● The group also plans an 'Autumn Rebellion' in October

● And workers could take action—and even walk out—as part of a 'Global Climate Strike' on 20 September

for 30 years and we're heading towards a cliff edge," she said.

XR activists blocked both entrances to the London Concrete plant in Newham, east London, on Tuesday morning.

Sitting on the road outside London Concrete, Ben told Socialist Worker, "Concrete is a hugely destructive industry—it's destructive for the planet's ecosystems because it heats up the atmosphere.

"That's on a global scale, but locally, there's a school just across the way where the kids' lungs capacity is smaller because of air pollution."



EXTINCTION REBELLION activists march in London

Protest organisers say the plant has been granted permission to expand, and the construction will dump contaminated waste next to a nearby school.

Sarah from XR Greenwich is part of the "Stop Silvertown Tunnel" campaign said, "They've scrapped plans for a DLR extension and a pedestrian bridge but kept plans for a road crossing—and they're building a three storey car park for heavy goods vehicles".

Campaigners are fighting the lie that another road crossing across the Thames will improve air pollution.

"A new tunnel won't ease

congestion—all the viability assessments show that more roads lead to more cars," said Sarah. "It's estimated to cost over £1 billion, and the carbon emissions from just constructing the structure—mostly out of concrete—will be huge."

In Bristol numbers swelled throughout Monday evening with over 1,000 people taking part all over the city. Mass people's assemblies took place as well as discussion groups debating aspects of climate change.

There were demonstrations throughout the city, causing huge disruption in city centre traffic.

## Murdered

In Glasgow, XR's purple boat was named after Amal Gous, a Sudanese tea seller murdered during the sit-in in Khartoum. Activists were set to hold workshops and assemblies on the theme of climate refugees.

Hussein in Cardiff told Socialist Worker, "We held a 'People's Assembly' on how we can bring more people into the occupation and grow XR locally.

"People have come from all over Wales to camp out and be part of the action. There's a lot of optimism here, quite a lot of excitement and people are really enjoying the boat!"

In Leeds, a yellow boat bearing the slogan "planet before profit" parked in the financial district, the most polluted part of the city.

Gay told Socialist Worker that the Leeds action felt like "a fantastic anti-capitalist display.

"If you want to cherish the planet, you've got to give up exploiting resources, rare metals for mobile phones, oil and gas for energy."

Activists spent the day debating the next steps. XR activists planned to march to join the school climate strikers who were set for another walkout this Friday.

Many activists also plan action on the 20 September global strike for the climate.

Public sector worker Fay is hoping to strike on 20 September because she wants to do "anything that increases the momentum".

"Impotence is the hardest thing—but doing something helps, it makes you feel better."

RMT transport union member Arthur took a union flag on the London demonstration.

"Unions need to get more involved—workers should get involved because they have power," he said.

"Imagine if the tube workers went on strike for the climate. The power in these people is great, but we need to do it together."

**Nationwide Youth Strike For Climate Friday 19 July**

● [bit.ly/YS4CJuly](https://bit.ly/YS4CJuly)



School students have already walked out

**Global Climate Strike for Future Friday 20 September**

## More online

For coverage throughout the week go to [socialistworker.co.uk](https://socialistworker.co.uk)





PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## Frack fight is on in Lancashire

ANTI-FRACKING ACTIVISTS in Lancashire have vowed to continue their fight as drilling company Cuadrilla looks as if it is attempting to resume fracking in the region.

The Frack Free Lancashire campaigning group reports that 26 lorries carrying equipment entered the Preston New Road (PNR) site near Blackpool at 2am on Tuesday morning.

Activists have been fighting fossil fuel extraction at the site since fracking bosses were given preliminary approval in October 2016.

Cuadrilla attempted a large scale operation in autumn last year but earthquakes caused by fracking forced it to abandon PNR.

The arrival of new fracking equipment followed a day of heavy handed policing. Cops arrested four people and gave them bail conditions preventing them from joining future protests.

■ **EXTINCTION** Rebellion campaigners marched through east London on Friday of last week.

They demanded urgent action on the climate crisis and on high levels of air pollution in the area—with particular focus on how toxic air affects children.

Carrie had come to the demonstration with her baby son. “Tower Hamlets air pollution is particularly bad,” she told Socialist Worker. “Kids here are born with poorer lungs—what his lungs are like we don’t know yet.”



Police arrest an activist

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## Climate rebels on trial for fighting for future

DOZENS OF Extinction Rebellion (XR) activists appeared in court last week as a result of XR’s “International Rebellion” in central London in April.

Thousands of people occupied the streets of central London in April—and more than 1,000 were arrested.

The activists were all charged with a public order offence.

Matt from Putney, south London, joined Monday’s demonstration

holding a banner that said, “Prosecute polluters not protesters”.

“A lot of people agree with us. The wrong people are on trial,” he said. “I want to see the CEOs of polluting companies in the dock. In the short term, XR isn’t enough to achieve that. But if this reaches critical mass then who knows?”

“I think arrests send a message to see the police dragging people off the streets—people find it inspiring, I know I did.”

## Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

# DON’T MOURN—ORGANISE AGAINST BORIS JOHNSON

**T**HE MAIN party of British capitalism is gripped by its most serious crisis in almost a century. And, in its hour of need, it has turned to notorious racist and renowned incompetent Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson.

On Tuesday of next week the results of the internal election for the leadership of the Tory party will be announced. Polls suggest that Johnson is on track to get two-thirds of the vote of the Tory membership.

However, he can be resisted. His support for the rich, racism and bigotry has enraged millions.

That means there’s a huge potential base for organising the resistance to whatever attacks will come once the Tory election dust has settled.

Johnson has clearly shown what his priorities are. At the start of the contest he announced that he would raise the threshold for the higher income tax rate from £50,000 to £80,000.

Another reason to resist came on Monday. An old essay of Johnson’s emerged.

In it he argues there is “no stronger retrograde force” in the world than Islam.

“There must be something about Islam that indeed helps to explain why there was no rise of the bourgeoisie, no liberal capitalism and therefore no spread of democracy in the Muslim world,” he said.

He wrote that the further the Muslim world had “fallen behind, the more bitterness and confusion there has been, to the point where virtually every global flashpoint you can think of involves some sense of Muslim grievance”.

Of course, this racism is nothing new from Johnson.

He has implied former MP Keith Vaz is “as greasy as an onion bhaji”. He has described Muslim women who wear the veil as “looking like

letterboxes”.

He has called black people “picaninies” and described them as having “watermelon smiles”.

Millions are horrified at the idea of Johnson at the head of the British state. The great danger is that the horror transfixed people, caught in the headlights of the Tories’ runaway train.

That feeling of helplessness is encouraged by the internal Tory party election. Just 160,000 people will decide the next prime minister. All the rest of us are reduced to the role of spectators.

That means any example of people fighting back is precious.

Extinction Rebellion has been an inspiration. It has clearly shown that uncompromising politics and protests can win victories.

And the strike at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (see page 3) is an important example of workers fighting back.

Each example points to how we can organise resistance to Johnson and the Tories—on the streets and in our workplaces.

It’s what the trade union leaders and Labour Party should be organising.

“**There’s a huge potential base for organising the resistance to Tory attacks**”

## DEFEND LGBT+ EDUCATION

**L**GBT+ EDUCATION is under attack. That was the message from a BBC Panorama programme this week.

It followed protests by Muslim parents at Birmingham’s Parkfield Community School.

These forced the school to temporarily drop its No Outsiders LGBT+ education programme.

The backlash is driven by opposition to LGBT+ relationships. Several people told Panorama that teaching about LGBT+ relationships “encourages”

homosexuality. Some said the only acceptable sexual behaviour is between a man and a woman who are married.

Rolling back LGBT+ education leaves LGBT+ children, and children with LGBT+ parents, more isolated and vulnerable.

Homophobic bullying is already rife in schools. And LGBT+ people have suffered a spate of physical attacks recently.

The backlash in Birmingham has given confidence to homophobes everywhere.

Parents have complained about LGBT+ education throughout the country.

Panorama showed homophobes of all religions preparing for action later in the year.

It would be wrong to paint anyone who holds a religious belief as homophobic. And there are LGBT+ people in all religions. But we have to oppose homophobia wherever it comes from.

Let’s stand with everyone facing discrimination and fight for a more liberated world.

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## ANALYSIS

SIMON BASKETTER



## Black spy cop used against Lawrences

**THE THIRD police spy who targeted those fighting for justice for Stephen Lawrence has been named.**

Bobby Lewis—also known as Anthony Lewis—was the cover name for the officer known as N78. The others who targeted the Lawrences were Peter Francis and Dave Hagan.

Lewis's cover name was revealed on Tuesday as part of the Mitting inquiry into undercover policing.

Lewis joined Special Branch in 1986 and then the Special Demonstration Squad (SDS) in 1991.

He went undercover into left wing groups, including the Socialist Workers Party and other groups, in the summer of 1991 until late 1995.

As a black man he was particularly useful for the police.

He played a part in a filthy, decades-long plot to cover up the crimes and failings of the cops. Met bosses wanted information that could be used against the Lawrences shortly after Stephen's killing in April 1993.

Corruption and racism infected the investigation into the murder. Family liaison officers recorded details of every person visiting the Lawrence home. The information went to the spy cops.

Disgracefully—in one of the worst aspects of the whole programme—many undercover officers had sexual relationships with women on a wholly false basis.

This happened so often that it is evidence of a culture driven from the top of encouraging such abusive and manipulative behaviour. Lewis admitted “to a relationship with a member of the opposite sex during his deployment”.

She, and all the other women who were deceived in this way, deserve justice.

The 2014 Stephen Lawrence Independent Review, commonly known as the Ellison Review, and pressure from campaigners led to the Mitting inquiry being set up.

### Undercover

According to the Ellison report, “During undercover deployment the closest that N78 got to the Lawrence family was being a spectator at some public meetings where they spoke.”

“N78 never met them or spoke to them. However, N78 did pick up intelligence about the Lawrence family campaign through indirect means, and by knowing people who were close to the family.”

The intelligence reports Lewis filed have apparently at some stage been destroyed.

Lewis confirmed that it was routine for SDS officers to be provided with images of people who had been on marches and protests.

He had been involved in viewing the images from a demonstration on 8 May 1993 in South East London.

Duwayne Brooks, Stephen Lawrence's friend who was with him when he was attacked, was arrested for public disorder as a result of the protest. N78 has claimed no knowledge of this.

Later in 1993 some 60,000 anti-fascist campaigners took to the streets of Welling, south east London, to march on the headquarters of the British National Party (BNP).

The police refused the demonstration the right to march past the fascists' headquarters.

Police blocked the road to the headquarters and the agreed march route. As protesters began a sit-down in the road, riot police armed with batons waded in.

The police and the media tried to blame demonstrators for the violence—but it was the police who had no intention of allowing the march to pass off peacefully.

Lewis did assess photos from this demonstration. Thirteen people were subsequently jailed for an average of three and a half years.

He left the undercover unit before the public inquiry into the Lawrence murder.

But he has justified his actions against the left and anti-racists by saying, “These extremist organisations were very manipulative, calculating and cynical in their approach to causes and campaigns.” This shows a remarkable lack of self-awareness.

The Mitting inquiry has yet to hear any public evidence. It will probably sit for years—and at the end it is highly unlikely to do anything other than provide cover for the crimes of the undercover cops.

# Big US protests over horrific abuses of migrants' rights

by ALISTAIR FARROW

**THOUSANDS OF people protested last weekend across the US in defiance of Donald Trump's horrific treatment of migrants and refugees.**

They were mobilising against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Ice) raids scheduled for this week.

The raids began on Sunday evening and were set to continue through the week, targeting 2,000 households in ten cities across the US.

Yet there are signs that the level of popular anger against the Ice raids has delayed or limited them. Trump first floated the idea of widespread raids to take place in June, but widespread anger forced him back.

Trump's acting director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services Ken Cuccinelli said the crackdown was “about keeping the community safer”.

He said, “Just the expectations impose such a deterrent effect—what we call the ‘Trump Effect’.”

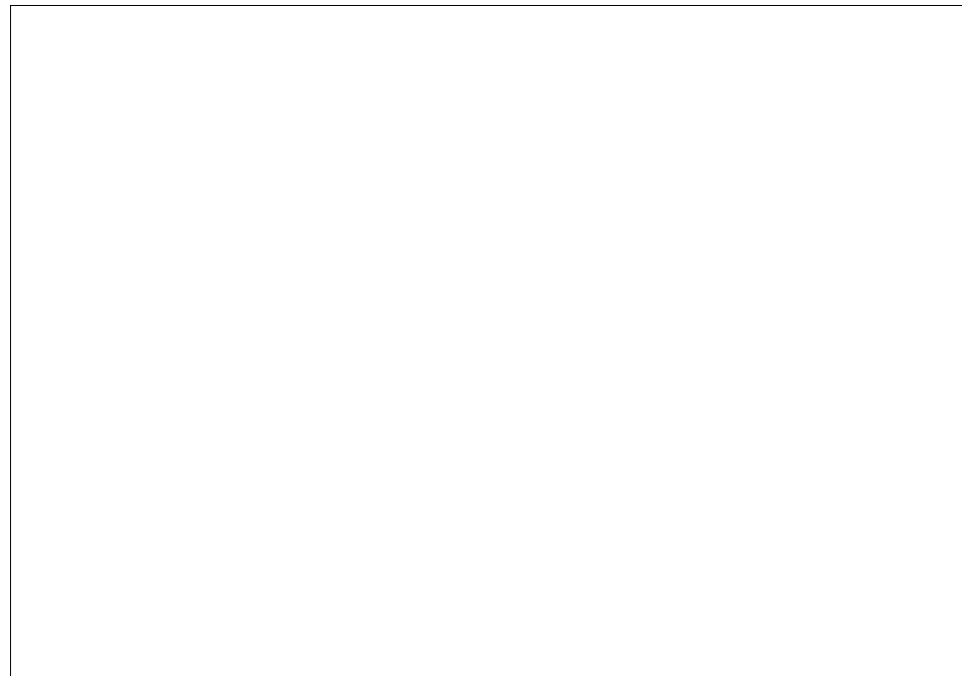
The “Trump Effect” has been to push racism even further into US society, and give even more confidence to those with the most reactionary ideas. Two reports last week showed the extent of this.

### Secret

A secret immigration officers' Facebook page revealed the deep racism among the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency.

Members make racist and violent jokes against immigrants.

And a further report by The Intercept news website found that the head of the US



**PROTESTERS GATHERED outside the White House to protest inhumane practices of Ice** PICTURE: SARAHMERK

The move backfired spectacularly. Reporters tweeted the shocking conditions they witnessed, which contradicted the CBP's account.

Josh Dawsey of The Washington Post tweeted, “VP saw 384 men sleeping inside fences, on concrete with no pillows or mats.”

“They said they hadn't showered in weeks, wanted toothbrushes, food. Stench was overwhelming.”

CBP “said they were fed regularly, could brush daily, recently got access to shower (many hadn't for 10-20 days).”

The Democratic Party's response to Trump's assault on migrants has been to suggest practical ways to implement it.

One such measure is to establish asylum processing

centres throughout Central America for people wishing to enter the US.

People would have to present themselves and wait to have their asylum claims considered, leaving them vulnerable to the forces they are trying to escape.

And just two weeks ago the party voted through a funding package that gives cash to Trump's migrant prisons.

The protests and solidarity action are a way to make Trump back down.

There should be no illusions in the Democrats when it comes to the fight for migrant rights.



### Got a story?

Email ideas to [reports@socialistworker.co.uk](mailto:reports@socialistworker.co.uk)

Border Patrol Carla Provost was a member of the group.

It gives the lie to claims by Trump's vice president Mike Pence's that migrants are being looked after by “compassionate” individuals.

Pence was showing reporters around immigration detention centres last Friday in an effort to paint the administration as humane.

## Trump's racist outburst ramps up the rhetoric

TRUMP TURNED his racist rhetoric up to maximum over the weekend.

He tweeted that four Democratic politicians should “go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came.”

“Then come back and show us how it is done.”

The politicians are Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley and Rashida Tlaib.

Three of the four were born in the US.

The third came to the US



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar

from Somalia as a child.

Many commentators have seized on the event as conclusive proof of Trump's racism. Yet Trump has been a vocal racist for decades.

Senior Democratic politician Nancy Pelosi attacked Trump's campaign slogan of “Make America Great Again” as really being “about making America white again”.

Yet Pelosi has consistently given ground to Trump's attacks on migrants, and has backed funding for more border security.



# Labour right's new attack over antisemitism claims

**RIGHT WING Labour MPs launched a fresh assault on the left last week, following a BBC Panorama documentary that accused Labour's leadership of fuelling antisemitism.**

The documentary—fronted by right wing hack John Ware—suggested that Labour has a problem with antisemitism because of Jeremy Corbyn's long-standing support for Palestine.

It also claimed that people from Corbyn's office interfered in internal disciplinary cases over charges of antisemitism.

An official response from the Labour Party said the programme “was a seriously inaccurate, politically one-sided polemic”.

“It was an overtly biased intervention by the BBC in party political controversy,” it said.

It also accused the programme's makers of inventing and editing quotes.

Yet Labour's right wing deputy leader Tom Watson said the party's response was “deplorable”. He accused Labour's general secretary Jennie Formby—a supporter of Corbyn—of hiding information on antisemitism in the Labour Party.

Corbyn supporters hit back with a defence of Formby.

But none of their responses dealt with the question that is central to contesting the right's argument—the right to criticise the state of Israel.

The documentary repeated the smear at the heart of Labour's antisemitism row—that opposing Israel is inherently antisemitic.

It rested on a very dangerous conflation of Jewish people with the state of Israel and its founding ideology, Zionism.

## State

This is the idea that Jewish people should have a state of their own in Palestine, and that in this state they should be the majority.

It justified the ethnic cleansing of some 850,000 Palestinians from their homes when Israel was created in 1948. And it justifies the racist exclusion of Palestinians from Israel today.

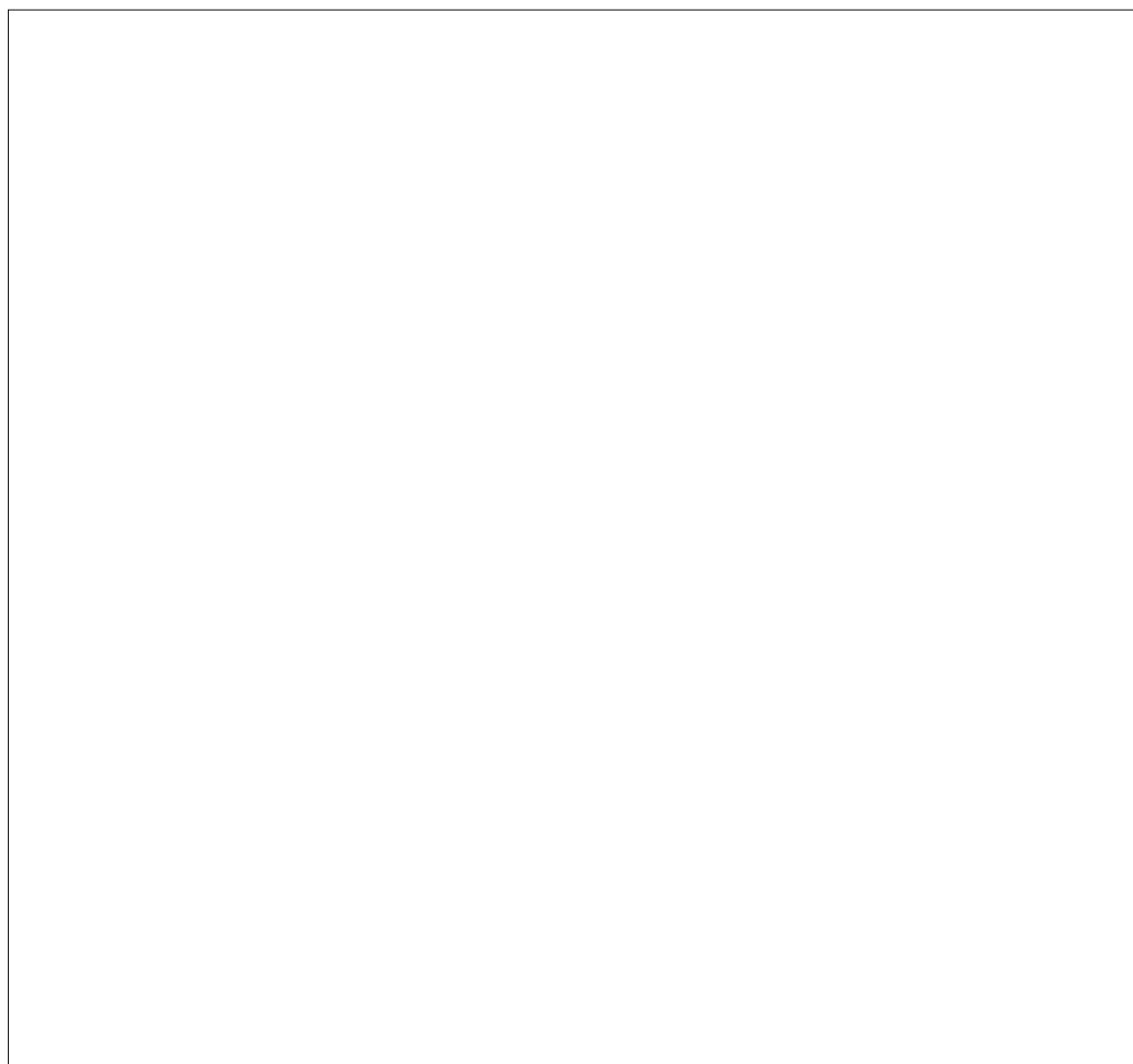
Many Jews oppose Zionism because of this.

But Ware simply asserted that criticism of Zionism is “offensive to Jewish people because Zionism is the project that established Israel as a secure Jewish homeland”.

This made Zionism appear as something integral to being Jewish, and therefore anti-Zionism as essentially antisemitic.

The left's opposition to Israel was presented as the root of the problem—and clamping down on it the solution.

Right wing MP Louise Ellman—vice chair of Labour Friends of Israel—complained that Labour



**LABOUR SHADOW** foreign secretary Emily Thornberry called for an independent inquiry

members in her constituency “wanted to talk mostly about the Middle East”.

Former Labour staffer Ben Westerman called opposition to Israel “an obsession that just spills over all the time into antisemitism”.

Another former senior Labour staffer, Mike Creighton, said Corbyn could have dealt with antisemitism “with a significant speech on the issue of the Middle East, particularly saying that Israel has a right to exist”.

## Solidarity

Yet Labour's leadership has given up on defending the right to call Israel racist. Instead the row has become increasingly personalised, vicious, and unpolitical.

This won't beat the right. The only way to break out of it is to take head-on the issue at the heart of the right's argument—the right to stand in solidarity with Palestine, and to call Israel a racist state.



**On other pages...**

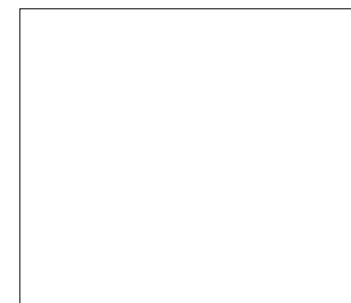
The Tories' Brexit crisis and their drive to war >>Page 20

## John Ware's bare-faced bias

JOHN WARE—the reporter who fronted the Panorama documentary—has a long history of opposing the right to criticise Israel. Many of the people he interviewed as “experts” on antisemitism are actually pro-Israel activists.

In an article last year, Ware wrote that anti-Zionism had “morphed into antisemitism—itsself a Corbyn legacy”.

And in 2006 he fronted



**John Ware strikes a pose**

another Panorama documentary suggesting that British Muslim charity Interpal funded terrorism.

The Muslim Council of Britain responded at the time, “Ware's over-reliance on partisan Israeli and American sources clearly exposed the flimsy basis of his arguments against the British Muslim charity, Interpal.”

Ware has also claimed that opposition to Islamophobia—“The ‘I’ word”—had “closed down debate on extremism”.

And in 2003 even right wing Labour home secretary David Blunkett said a Panorama documentary by Ware on asylum seekers played into a “Powellite anti-immigration agenda”.

## Many ‘experts’ with ties to Israel

ONE “EXPERT” brought in to discuss antisemitism was Alan Johnson—presented as a neutral, independent author.

In fact, Johnson is an employee of the pro-Israel think-tank, the Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre (Bicom).

Bicom also runs a campaign group, We Believe in Israel, which organises pro-Israel activists in opposition to the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

Johnson is also one of the authors of the “Euston Manifesto”—a 2006 document that defended the invasion of Iraq and equated anti-Zionism with antisemitism.

Another expert, Dave Rich, is the author of the book “The left's Jewish problem,” which argues that anti-Zionism is a mask for antisemitism.

And an unnamed witness to antisemitism in Labour turned out to be Ella Rose—a former employee of the Israeli embassy.

## Programme offers little evidence for its claims

**THE PROGRAMME'S claim that antisemitism had become rife in Labour was light on evidence, with no facts or figures to back it up.**

Instead it relied on anecdotal claims by right wing former staffers, such as that Labour members at party meetings were “engaged in Holocaust denial”.

These were all vague, unsubstantiated and deliberately unverifiable.

Former staffers complained that only 15 people had been expelled for antisemitism, as if they wished more antisemitic members had been found.

Ben Westerman, sent to investigate a dispute in Labour's Liverpool Riverside constituency, claimed he had

been asked by a member if he came from Israel.

But members from Riverside said they had a recording that shows the person—a new, Jewish member of the party—actually asked what branch he was from.

Labour also claimed that the documentary had deliberately edited a quote from an email from communications director Seamus Milne, which warned against “muddling up political disputes with racism”.

# Fraternity of migrants in France have neither liberty nor equality

by CHARLIE KIMBER

**AROUND 1,000 Black Vest activists and others occupied one of France's most famous monuments last Friday—and were met by vicious police repression.**

Most of those who surged into the Pantheon in Paris were undocumented migrants.

Their demands included a meeting with the prime minister about regularising their status.

The Black Vests is a migrant association whose name echoes the Yellow Vests protest movement that has been battling president Emmanuel Macron for eight months.

"Today we immigrants without papers, inhabitants of social housing, tenants of the streets, are occupying the Pantheon," a Black Vests' statement said. "In the French Republic, we are paperless, faceless, voiceless."

One activist told Socialist Worker, "We are fighting the unequal treatment we face."

"But we are also drawing attention to the system that makes us undocumented immigrants."

## Detention

The group's press release highlighted how undocumented immigrants in France sleep "under highways" when there are "200,000 empty flats in Paris".

They called for their fellow migrants in detention centres to be set free and demanded that these centres be closed.

The Pantheon was chosen as the protest location to highlight the huge gap between the promises of French democracy—liberty,



**PROTESTERS OCCUPIED the Pantheon and rallied outside but were met with brutal repression**

PICTURE: COLLECTIF LA CHAPELLE DEBOUT ON FACEBOOK

equality and fraternity—and the reality of people's lives.

It is the burial place of figures such as Voltaire, Rousseau, Marie Curie and Alexandre Dumas.

There is a plaque commemorating

the great slave revolt leader Toussaint L'Ouverture.

The Black Vests made their statements in front of a statue representing France with the slogan, "Live free or die."

The activist told Socialist Worker, "France says it celebrates the end of slavery and revolt against rule by an elite."

"But our lives as undocumented migrants have much in

common with slavery. No rights. No freedom to move, no security nor a future."

Police repeatedly charged a support rally outside the Pantheon, using tear gas and making dozens of arrests.

They then attacked those who had been occupying the Pantheon when they left, hospitalising around 40 people.

One person had their finger torn off, two others were clubbed unconscious.

On Sunday—the anniversary of the storming of the Bastille at the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789—Macron faced whistles and boos as he took part in a military parade.

## Lavish

He is under fresh fire over the lavish spending of his environment minister, Francois de Rugy.

De Rugy, the second most senior member of the government, and his wife, Severine Servat, spent £500 of public money on a Dyson hairdryer coated with gold leaf.

The couple also used state funds for lavish parties, including giant lobsters, £400 bottles of wine and a weekend apartment.

When over 1,000 Yellow Vests demonstrated on Saturday in Paris, as well as their usual slogan, "Macron resign," they also chanted, "Lobsters everywhere, justice nowhere," and, "We want lobsters, champagne and caviar."

## On other pages...

How suppressed report reveals horror of Nakba >>Page 17

## SUDAN

# Opposition to military deal

SOME OF Sudan's local resistance committees are opposing a recent deal between the opposition and the military.

These committees have been crucial to the battle against the regime.

"This agreement doesn't consider us or even our demands," said Waleed Omer.

Waleed is a leading member of the resistance committees in Omdurman, one of Khartoum's two sister cities.

"We haven't been consulted and we haven't been represented so we



Protest in Darfur

are against it," he told Middle East Eye.

"We don't care about these political agreements and these compromises."

"We are preparing for a new wave of protests and we will show them the will of the nation."

Resistance committees

in Bahri, as well as the city of Port Sudan, have also come out against the agreement and are determined not to lose the momentum built up since December.

The deal means the leadership of a joint military and civilian governing council is to remain with the military for the first 21 months.

Members of the notorious Rapid Support Forces (RSF) shot dead a protester in El Souk in the state of Sinnar on Sunday.

Residents had rallied to demand that the RSF leave the town.

## CHILE

# Walmart workers join a mass strike

OVER 17,000 Walmart supermarket workers walked out on Wednesday of last week to join a strike movement that has the potential to bring the Chilean ruling class to its knees.

Over 100 shops have been closed indefinitely, with almost 300 more hit by strikes and other forms of action.

Workers are demanding an end to mass firings as a result of checkout automation.

They are also opposing worse conditions for those who remain employed.

Workers voted for strikes by 91.75 percent, despite the



Walmart workers in Chile on strike

PICTURE: SIL FACEBOOK

best efforts of their union leadership to hold them back.

The Walmart workers join some 80,000 teachers who have been on indefinite strike for the past six weeks.

Last Wednesday the teachers rejected a deal from bosses to get them back to

work. They are striking for more job security, as well as the payment of the historic debt to their retirement funds.

So far the government has refused to negotiate with the teachers. President Sebastian Pinera has declared the strike "illegal".



## Winning in Hong Kong

LAM CHI Leung is correct about the strategic aims of the movement in Hong Kong (Socialist Worker, 10 July).

We can learn from how Hong Kong's protests have forced chief executive Carrie Lam to retreat over the extradition bill.

The response of the main protest movement on 1 July to the storming of the Legislative Council by a minority of protesters was to declare that, "Between the eggs and the high wall, we will forever side with the eggs."

This was embracing the young, and laying the blame on the government.

On 8 July there was another anti-extradition bill march to Kowloon to appeal to the tourists from the mainland.

After the main march had ended, groups of young protesters moved to Nathan Road, the heart of the shopping district in Hong Kong.

The police charged and made arrests.

But Carrie Lam was forced to reiterate that the bill is dead.

The return of Hong Kong to China in 1997 should be celebrated.

But the division in the minds of Hong Kongers and mainland Chinese is made real by the border agreed between the Chinese and British governments.

The movement has every chance of winning all its immediate demands if it continues to appeal to mainland Chinese and to target the business interests of the rich.

I think we can say, "No to the extradition bill. No to independence".

Lawrence Wong  
East London



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

## Support for Corbyn and Williamson from Palestine

AS PALESTINIANS we see Jeremy Corbyn as our defender because we need someone brave, a prime minister that can say no to the US and to Israel.

Israel knows that very well, so it needs to stop him.

Israel cannot bomb London—London is not Gaza.

Assassination is not a possibility—he is not a Palestinian.

But Israel can accuse him of antisemitism.

Israel is doing it and—I am sorry to say—is doing it openly and successfully.

Both the left and the right in Israel blame him.

There are four points to consider when looking at Chris

Williamson MP's suspension.

Firstly, Palestinians have a record of being against racism and against antisemitism.

Secondly, and most importantly, does the "accusing finger" point at Chris Williamson or at Corbyn?

The point is not just whether Williamson is antisemitic or not—and we don't believe that he is—but that he is close to Corbyn.

Thirdly, the weakness of the British government ministers leads them to search for a victim in order to cover up their weakness compared to the strengthening of Corbyn.

Lastly, we must translate the reaction to Williamson's speech as the search for anything that can

stop Jeremy Corbyn. But for us Corbyn is a hope. He is the hope of the Palestinians, but he is also the hope of oppressed people and workers across the world.

Yusef Afsour  
Palestine

● I WAS pleased to see that Chris Williamson MP was welcomed to the recent Marxism festival.

He needs to be defended against the outrageous slurs from the media, the Tories and the Labour right.

I have to wonder why the Labour left have been so silent on this question.

Liz Osborne  
East London

## Real action is needed now over racist pay gap

I WAS shocked by official figures last week that showed just how big the gap between the pay of white workers and others is.

The average pay of white British workers last year was £12.03 an hour.

This compares with £9.60 an hour for people of Bangladeshi origin and £10 an hour for those of Pakistani origin.

In many cases the "race gap" is not because people do different jobs.

British-born black African employees were

paid 7.7 percent less than British-born white British with similar occupation and education characteristics.

Racism is disgustingly alive and well in the workplace.

The main response I have seen is that there need to be more pay audits in workplaces to reveal what's going on.

We know the problem—we need action. And the trade unions should be leading it.

Rowshan Nemazee  
West London

## Special schools aren't 'social apartheid'

AS THE parent of a child with autism I feel compelled to respond to Nick Caitlin's contribution (Letters, 10 July).

I agree with much of what he writes.

Trying to get your child an education, health and care plan, and the funding needed to meet their needs, can feel like an ongoing war between you and your local education department.

It can leave parents and carers bruised, battered and demoralised.

But, as someone who fought to get her daughter into a special school, I do



Protest for special needs funds

not agree that such institutions are a form of "social apartheid".

Nor do I think that bringing children into the mainstream environment is always the answer. We need both mainstream

and special schools to be properly staffed and funded and to exist within easy travelling distance for all of our children.

Inclusion means providing schools that will allow our children to access as much of the curriculum as they are able on their own terms.

As my daughter, who crumbled in mainstream and blossomed in specialist provision, says, "Some people might be alright in mainstream schools, but some people aren't."

Rhiannon Cain  
South London

## We need more council houses

THE Stop HDV campaign and friends had a robust presence outside Haringey civic centre in north London last week.

We lobbied the council's cabinet over the proposed Red House development.

It would see the sale of council-owned land to a developer at a knock down price.

This proposal is for 46 council homes out of 88 dwellings in total.

But we need 100 percent council housing on council land.

Paul Burnham  
North London

## Join bike ride for Palestine

THE BIG Ride for Palestine is an annual cycling event to raise awareness and support for the Palestinian people.

This year's rides mark the fifth anniversary of Israel's brutal bombardment of Gaza in July and August 2014.

They will also highlight the need to end the siege of Gaza.

There are three rides—London on 27 July, Manchester on 3 August and Birmingham on 7 September.

For more information and to register go to [thebigride4palestine.com](http://thebigride4palestine.com)

Mike Barton  
North London

## Thanks for a great Marxism

MANY THANKS to all at the Socialist Workers Party for organising a fantastic Marxism festival this year.

Only 360 sleeps to the next one.

Dave Bridge  
Liverpool

## Voting for the few, not many

THE current Conservative contest for prime minister is to be decided by 160,000 Tory members who are eligible to vote out of an electorate of around 47 million.

According to my maths this is 0.34 percent who are foisting a right winger on the disenfranchised 99.66 percent of the electorate.

If Labour was doing this there would be an outcry and accusations of a left wing coup.

Dave Taylor  
Hampshire

Just a thought...

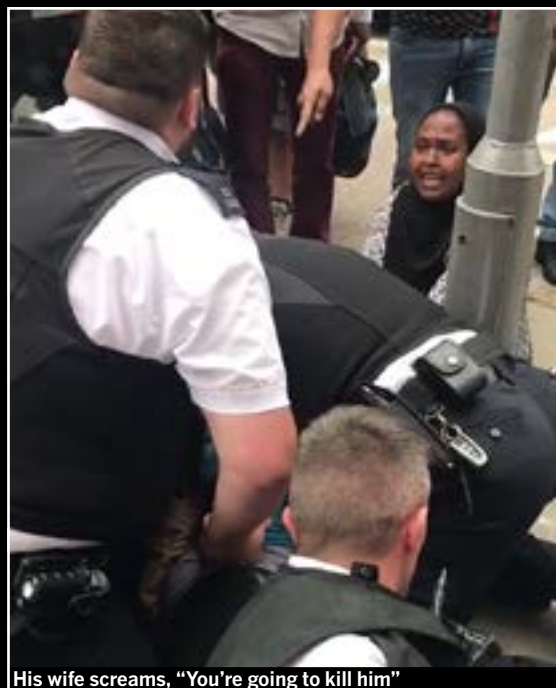


## AFTER OUTRAGE AT POLICE VIOLENCE IN EAST LONDON, VICTIMS AND WITNESSES SPEAK OUT...

# 'OUR STORIES HAVE TO BE HEARD'



**POLICE ARREST** Youness Bentahar in Tower Hamlets, east London, following a suspected parking violation last week. A number of officers pin him to the ground



His wife screams, "You're going to kill him"



Witnesses say Youness recieved cuts to his head and neck, as well as a broken finger



Youness repeatedly screams out in pain



More officers arrive to aid the arrest



By now Youness is very unwell and needs hospital treatment



Officers are determined to keep the growing crowd back

Cops are routinely risking people's lives—and the incidents caught on film are just the tip of the iceberg. Victims and witnesses in east London spoke to Alistair Farrow about the impact of police violence

**C**OPS IN east London are out of control. Three recent incidents there saw police put people's lives at risk. They give a glimpse of what is happening in many cities across Britain.

Police violently arrested Youness Bentahar on Tuesday of last week after he parked his car on a single yellow line on Abbott Road in Tower Hamlets. Youness was visiting his sister. Her neighbour Tahera Ayazi spoke to Socialist Worker after the attack.

"With the level of force they used, I thought it was terrorism related," she said. "When I was told it was over parking I was like, 'No way!'"

"The police were sitting across his airways. He's got lacerations on his throat. He's got a broken finger. There were two children in the car including one who needs oxygen and another who got out and could have been knocked down.

"The police had no consideration for anyone. His wife was in the car—she was frantic. She was screaming, 'You're going to kill him!'"

Cops quickly started to create an alternative narrative. In a statement released the day after the event, police claimed Youness had tried to bite them.

That statement was later taken down from the Metropolitan Police's



### Police arrest policies are not fit for purpose

THE COPS have policy for how to arrest people safely. The problem is it's not fit for purpose, they don't follow it anyway and it assumes they have legitimate grounds for arresting people.

Police guidelines point to three "core questions" cops should ask themselves before using force.

There are an additional "ten key principles" governing the use of force. Seemingly none of these were followed in the cases of Youness, Mohammed or dozens of others.

If the cops don't follow their own guidelines, what are the chances they will act on unconscious bias training? Slim to nil.

website. On 6 May in another incident, police violently arrested Mohammed Khan in Whitechapel.

Mohammed had got into an argument with an officer in a shop after helping the shopkeeper following an incident he was not involved in.

By the end of the altercation he was unconscious on the floor—pinned down by four cops.

"They chucked me in the middle of the road and attacked me like a pack of animals," he said. "It felt like my face and head were being crushed against the floor. I couldn't breathe, I was screaming in agony."

### Targeted

Mohammed was knocked unconscious and carried into a police van.

And Tehera told Socialist Worker how police tried to arrest another man from her neighbourhood just days before they arrested Youness.

"The police made one round, saw him, then five minutes later they came back again," she said. "They said, 'We're arresting you—you stuck two fingers up at us.'"

"They served him with a public order notice. Someone came up who could speak better English and intervened—then the police got quite nervous and took the handcuffs off."

For every viral video that rightly provokes outrage there are a dozen

## 2014-15

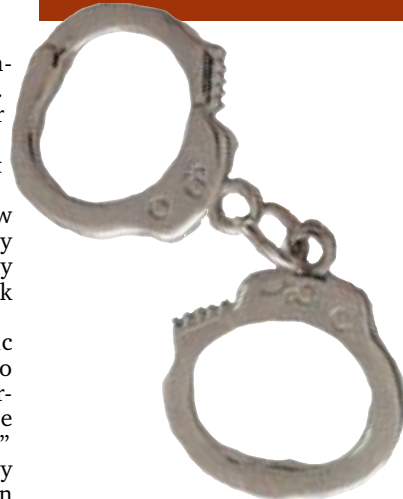
Black people **4 times** as likely to be stopped and searched as white people

## 2016-17

Black people **8 times** as likely to be stopped and searched as white people

## 2017-18

Black people **9.5 times** as likely to be stopped and searched as white people



THE POLICE are armed with more than just new powers

more instances of police violence, intimidation and harassment.

This isn't new. The cops exist to enforce class rule and to protect the people at the top of society.

And because the cops are there to defend the system, forces are full of all the nastiest attitudes that the system generates—such as racism.

### Wronged

Some say the way to deal with police brutality is to appeal to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). Youness's case is one of many that has been referred to that body.

But this pet police watchdog, like the ones that went before it, is staffed by former cops who look out for their own. Nearly 2,000 people have died in police custody since 1990.

No cop has ever been found guilty for any of these deaths.

They are more confident to use violence because they know the full weight of the state is behind them. There is little hope of the IOPC delivering justice for anyone who has been wronged by the cops—and officers know it.

Zakaria was violently arrested by police in Tower Hamlets in 2016. He has fought for justice ever since—and it's still a distant prospect.

"It's cost me a hell of a lot of money to pursue the legal case," he told Socialist Worker. "I'm still waiting for an outcome. It's meant my life is on hold. It's hard to find work because any new place does a social media search on me and I have to discuss what happened."

Zak has to work outside the borough because of problems he has had since the attack. "The police have been trying to find anything they can

### Section 60 orders are a licence to harass

YOUNESS WAS arrested shortly after a Section 60 order had been put in place in Tower Hamlets. These notices allow police to stop and search anyone without suspicion in specific geographical areas.

They don't even have to give a reason before searching someone.

Cops use stop and search to disproportionately target young black men. And this has got worse as Section 60 orders have become more frequent. If you are black, it's increasingly likely you have been stopped and searched (see box, left).

Police have used more Section 60 orders since stop and search under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act was made illegal in 2010.

The number of Section 60 orders doubled between 2017-18 and 2018-19—while the number of Section 60 stop and searches exploded.

There were 1,836 Section 60 stop and searches in 2017-18. A year later there were 9,599.

Recent high-profile knife crimes have encouraged a rise in stop and searches.

Yet as Gracie Bradley from the Liberty civil rights organisation pointed out, "Research shows there is no significant link between ethnicity and knife crime. Prohibited items are found across all ethnicities at similar rates."

"Racism discrimination in stop and search is rising, and is at its worst under suspicionless powers."

about me," he explained. "There's been increased stop and searches, my vehicle gets pulled over at every opportunity."

"You don't have the same life after something like this."

Mohammed is still waiting for an apology for what happened to him. But he said, "Not even a sorry would make a difference because my story has to be heard."

"People need to see that police officers are abusing power."

Cops have always attacked working class people and black people. But Zak said that an "increase in far right rhetoric" has made people feel even more vulnerable.

The next prime minister is likely to be the vicious Islamophobe Boris Johnson, who has compared Muslim women who wear the burqa to "bank robbers".

Zak added, "The way the media is portraying certain communities is making everyone a target. We can see that in the different way child abusers are treated if they are Asian."

"We're seeing the over-reporting of specific ethnic minorities when it comes to crime. Locally it's about cop operations against black and ethnic minority groups. Yes, it's about drug dealing, but they'll plaster all the faces on posters and the council will make a big deal about it."

Some say that police cuts mean officers aren't getting the right training or being properly held to account, and blame this for police violence.

In reality police carry out racist, violent attacks because they are thugs put in place to help uphold a racist and violent system.

The last thing that ordinary people need is more of them.



PROTESTING IN support of Youness in east London last week

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## 'Our trust in police has gone'

OVER A hundred people joined a vigil to protest against police violence in Tower Hamlets last Friday.

People who had witnessed the vicious arrest of Youness Bentahar on Tuesday came forward to speak.

One witness said he had been "manhandled" at the scene. "My children saw what happened," he said. Tahera also witnessed the attack and spoke at the protest.

She told Socialist Worker that both of Youness's children are suffering trauma from witnessing four police officers arresting their father.

She said, "The two year old can't stop from shaking whenever people talk to her. And the four year old keeps saying, 'You're killing my dad.'"

People heckled Tower Hamlets mayor John Biggs for not doing enough to hold the cops to account. He called for time for the Independent Office for Police Complaints to conduct an inquiry.

"Not one of those politicians is going to stand up and call this what it was—racism and police brutality," said one protester.

Sheila McGregor from Tower Hamlets Stand Up To Racism argued that the finger needs to be pointed to those at the top.

"Home Secretary Sajid Javid has increased police powers," she said, arguing for people to unite against the Tories.

Tahera was clear—"Our trust in the police is completely gone. There must be prosecutions. A precedent must be set."



## WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

### INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

### THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

### INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to [www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk) or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

## { SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

### MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

#### 50 years since Stonewall—why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Wed 31 Jul, 7pm,  
Central Methodist Hall,  
Oldham St,  
M1 1JQ

### NORWICH

#### LGBT+ rights—why are attacks increasing?

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Vauxhall Centre,  
Johnson Place,  
NR2 2SA

### PORTSMOUTH

#### 60 years on from the revolution—where is Cuba going?

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Somerstown  
Community Centre,  
River's St,  
PO5 4EZ

## { SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

### ABERDEEN

#### Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?

Mon 22 Jul, 6pm,  
The Snug,  
Ma Cameron's,  
6-8 Little Belmont St,  
AB10 1JG

### BARNSELEY

#### Do genes determine our behaviour?

Thu 25 Jul, 7pm,  
Room 302, The Civic,  
Hanson St, S70 2HZ

### BOLTON

#### Lenin, the state and revolution

Wed 24 Jul, 7pm,  
Bolton Socialist Club,  
16 Wood St (off Bradshawgate),  
BL1 1DY

### BRADFORD

#### Sudan and Algeria—resistance, revolt and revolution

Thu 25 Jul, 7pm,  
Glyde House,  
Little Horton Lane  
(opposite the ice rink),  
BD5 0BQ

### BRISTOL

#### Is a sustainable economy possible?

Thu 25 Jul, 7.30pm,  
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,  
BS1 4QA

### BURNLEY AND PENDLE

#### Too many people? The myth of overpopulation and climate change

Wed 24 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Red Triangle Cafe,  
160 St James's St,  
BB11 1NR

### CARDIFF

#### Why the working class is the most revolutionary class

Wed 24 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Cathays Community Centre,  
Cathays Terrace,  
CF24 4HX

**SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS**



# After their leadership election How do we end Tory rule?

**BIRMINGHAM**  
Wed 24 Jul, 7pm,  
The Church at Carrs Lane,  
Carrs Ln,  
B4 7SX

**DERBY**  
Thu 25 Jul, 7pm,  
West End Community Centre,  
Mackworth Rd (next to Britannia Mill),  
DE22 3BL

**KENT**  
Thu 25 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Nucleus Arts Centre  
(Conference Room),  
272 High St,  
Chatham, ME4 4BP

**LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE**  
Thu 25 Jul, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Meeting House Lane,  
Lancaster LA1 1TX

**OXFORD**  
Wed 24 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Restore Building,  
Manzil Way,  
OX4 1YH

**SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE**  
Thu 25 Jul, 7pm,  
Central United  
Reformed Church,  
60 Norfolk St (near Crucible Theatre), S1 2JB

**WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL**  
Wed 24 Jul, 7.15pm,  
Light House,  
Suite 16, Chubb Bldg,  
Fryer St,  
WV1 1HT

### CHESTERFIELD

#### 50 years since Stonewall—why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Thu 25 Jul, 7pm,  
Chesterfield Library,  
New Beetwell St,  
S40 1QN

### COLCHESTER

#### 50 years since Stonewall—why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Thu 25 Jul, 8pm,  
Oyster Room, Hythe  
Community Centre,  
1 Ventura Drive,  
CO1 2FG

### DUNDEE

#### Socialists, strikes and trade unions—how do we fight back?

Wed 24 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Dundee Voluntary Action,  
10 Constitution Rd, DD1 1LL

### EDINBURGH

#### 60 years since the revolution—where is Cuba going?

Wed 24 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
7 Victoria St, EH1 2JL

### GLASGOW

#### Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?

Thu 25 Jul, 7pm,  
Avant Garde,  
33-44 King St, Merchant City,  
G1 5QT

### HARLOW

#### Trump, trade wars and imperialism

Thu 25 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
1 Church Leys,  
CM18 6BX

### HUDDERSFIELD

#### The Peterloo Massacre—the fight for democracy and freedom

Wed 24 Jul, 6.30pm,  
Brian Jackson House,  
2 New North Parade (near both train and bus stations),  
HD1 5JP

### HULL

#### Why is capitalism addicted to plastic?

Thu 22 Aug, 7pm,  
Cafe licious,  
104 Cottingham Rd,  
HU6 7RZ

### LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

#### Ireland—the war of independence and the creation of the border

Thu 25 Jul, 7pm,  
The Swarthmore  
Education Centre,  
2-7 Woodhouse Square,  
LS3 1AD

### LIVERPOOL

#### 50 years since Stonewall—why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Thu 1 Aug, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
22 School Ln, L1 3BT

### LONDON: HACKNEY

#### Can the Green New Deal stop climate change?

Thu 25 Jul, 7.30pm,  
The Round Chapel,  
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner Lower Clapton Rd),  
E5 0PU

### LONDON: HARINGEY

#### China and the impact of the Hong Kong resistance

Wed 24 Jul, 7.30pm,  
St John Vianney Church Hall,  
386 West Green Rd (corner Vincent Rd), N15 3QH

### LONDON: ISLINGTON

#### Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?

Thu 25 Jul, 7pm,  
Elizabeth House,  
2 Hurlock St,  
Highbury, N5 1ED

### LONDON: KINGSTON

#### Music and the politics of resistance

Thu 25 Jul, 6.30pm,  
Kingston Quaker Centre,  
Fairfield East,  
KT1 2PT

### LONDON: NEWHAM

#### Is human nature a barrier to socialism?

Wed 24 Jul, 7pm,  
Stratford Advice Arcade,  
107-109 The Grove (next to Morrisons car park),  
E15 1HP  
Speaker: Sophia Beach

### LONDON: SOUTH

#### Should drugs be legalised?

Wed 24 Jul, 7pm,  
Vida Walsh Centre,  
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd, facing Windrush Square),  
Brixton, SW2 1EP

### LONDON: SOUTH EAST

#### 50 years since Stonewall—why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Wed 24 Jul, 7pm,  
Deptford Lounge,  
9 Giffin St,  
SE8 4RH

### LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

#### 50 years since Stonewall—why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Wed 24 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Weavers Community Forum,  
10 Shacklewell St,  
E2 7EG

### LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

#### Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?

Wed 24 Jul, 7.30pm,  
William Morris  
Community Centre,  
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,  
Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

### LONDON: WEST & NORTHWEST

#### Sex & sexuality in the era of Love Island

Thu 25 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Woodlane Community Centre,  
78 White City Cl,  
Shepherd's Bush,  
W12 7DZ

### MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

#### China in revolt—30 years since Tiananmen Square

Wed 24 Jul, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
6 Mount St,  
M2 5NS

### NEWCASTLE

#### 50 years since Stonewall—why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Wed 24 Jul, 7pm,  
Floor 2, Commercial  
Union House,  
39 Pilgrim St, NE1 6QE

### NOTTINGHAM

#### 50 years since Stonewall—why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

Wed 31 Jul, 7pm,  
International  
Community Centre,  
61b Mansfield Rd, NG1 3FN

### PORTSMOUTH

#### Classroom wars—the fight against testing, academics and marketisation

Wed 24 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Somerstown  
Community Centre,  
River's St, PO5 4EZ

### SWANSEA

#### Race, class and identity

Thu 25 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Brynmill Community Centre,  
St Albans Rd,  
SA2 0BP

## { MOVEMENT EVENTS }

### NATIONAL

#### End austerity now!

Demo at Tory conference,  
Sat 29 Sep, 12 noon,  
Oxford Road,  
Manchester.

Called by People's Assembly

#### Stand Up To Racism international conference

Sat 19 Oct, 10am  
Central London  
[standuptoracism.org.uk](http://standuptoracism.org.uk)

### NATIONAL

#### Cuba, the Pink Tide and revolution in Latin America

Sat 26 Oct, 2.30pm,  
Central London,  
Hosted by International  
Socialism Journal,  
[Go to isj.org.uk](http://Go to isj.org.uk)

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# Hidden nightmare that lies behind the Hollywood dream

Dark Mon£y is a poignant and compelling drama about sexual abuse, class and the corporate elite in the film industry, say **Dean Ryan** and **Kate Simon**

**THE BBC drama Dark Mon£y takes up the theme of sexual abuse in the Hollywood film industry.**

It's an all-too familiar tale following recent scandals surrounding Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey and others which triggered the #MeToo movement.

London schoolboy Isaac Mensah (Max Fincham) has been plucked from obscurity to star in a blockbuster sci-fi movie, Valiant and Son.

The young teenager's sudden stardom is a point of pride for his family, school friends and local community. But when Isaac returns home from filming in America, we realise all is not well.

The plot quickly unfolds to reveal that Isaac has been sexually abused by the film's producer, Jotham Starr (John Schwab).

He reveals this to his dad Manny (Babou Ceesay) and mum Sam (Jill Halfpenny), in a harrowing scene.

The Hollywood dream has become a nightmare.

The drama exposes venal attitudes within the corporate elite at the heart of the movie industry in a powerful scene between Starr's legal team and the Mensahs.

## Video

When Starr's advisers are presented with a video revealing the abuse, they are less bothered by the abuse than with stopping a scandal.

Starr's team proposes a multi-million pound payoff, but it will only be on the table for five minutes.

The opening scene of the drama shows the family living in an expensive house with a swimming pool. It then rewinds 12 months to when



ISAAC, PLAYED by Max Fincham, and his parents in the BBC drama Dark Mon£y

the abuse was revealed at their then home on a council estate. So we're left in no doubt that the Mensahs have taken the money.

Despite their distress, it seems the inevitable choice. The Mensahs are a working class family and Manny and Sam have been warned that the legal system is stacked against them.

Their class credentials are at times clumsily reinforced—there's a trite scene showing a late-night visit from a bailiff—but the characters are

convincing and well-acted. The Mensahs are in no position to take on the powerful movie industry or turn down a life-changing sum of money.

By the end of episode two, we are witnessing the unravelling of a family. The Mensahs are in acute crisis, revealed through escalating tensions already present in this mixed-race family.

Isaac's older sister Jess (Olive Gray) resents her brother's success. And Manny has another son from

an extra-marital affair, Tyrone, a standout performance from Tut Nyuot as a happy, feisty kid never out of trouble.

The Mensahs' material conditions have improved but their lives are in freefall. This compelling story of the pervasive influence of sexual abuse poignantly highlights the suffering of real victims.

Dark Mon£y is a four-part series available on BBC iPlayer for six months. Go to [bbc.co.uk/iplayer](http://bbc.co.uk/iplayer)

## A 'climate emergency show' that's well worth seeing

### EXHIBITION

#### OLAFUR ELIASSON—IN REAL LIFE

At Tate Modern in London until 5 January.

[tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern](http://tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern)

TATE Modern's retrospective of Olafur Eliasson's work is a breath of artistic fresh air.

Eliasson heads up a multi-disciplinary Berlin-based team whose work is radical in so many ways.

Its reference points are our real lives, not consciously commenting about other art, any

individual's private obsessions or obscure techniques. Its experiments and working methods open and close the route of this show.

Brand Eliasson is keen on geometrical forms, the natural world and experiential settings—indeed our whole environment. It has even taken over the café with its branded menu.

Readers may already know of the 2003 Sun installation in the Tate's turbine hall space.

Last December's ring of Greenland ice blocks were



Olafur Eliasson

imported and left to melt outside its entrance. They gave off the trapped air of thousands of years before today's global warming as they melted by January.

There are more than 40 exhibits made since 1990 on show here in darkened rooms or inside a 39-metre long tunnel. They include water, mist, fog, dramatic lighting and acts of seeing via reflective surfaces.

You can view a Fog Couch, a Cold Wind Sphere, a Glacial Spherical Flare, a Moss Wall, a Big Bang Fountain and a

Stardust Particle.

Eliasson's Icelandic and Danish heritage is relevant to some works such as No Nights In Summer/No Days In Winter and I Grew Up In Silence and Solitude.

The landscapes and weather of his youth have clearly been influential, though he was also a teen breakdancer.

Despite the £16 ticket price and all of the Tate's corporate ties, this is a climate emergency show deserving of everyone's enjoyment.

**Nick Grant**

## FESTIVAL

### GOVANHILL FESTIVAL AND CARNIVAL

Govanhill Baths, 126 Calder St, Glasgow G42 7QP.

From 1 to 11 August.

For details, go to [govanhillbaths.com/festival](http://govanhillbaths.com/festival)

THE THIRD Govanhill interenational festival takes place in Glasgow next month. Initially set up to tackle racism, the event celebrates Govanhill's cultural diversity.

This year's festival includes music, plays, film screenings, art workshops, guided walks, book launches and debates, as well as Britain's first ever Roma film festival.



## BOOK

### HOMESICK—WHY I LIVE IN A SHED

by Catrina Davies, out now.

SOARING RENTS and a desire to avoid a boring, meaningless job pushed writer and songwriter Catrina Davies out of a shared house in Bristol and into a Cornwall shed.

Her book is about her own situation and the battle to make ends meet, but also reflects on whether it is possible to live "outside" the system.

## TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

1 **System Change Not Climate Change**  
Martin Empson (ed)

2 **Rebel's guide to Alexandra Kollontai**  
Emma Davis

3 **This Is Not A Drill**  
Extinction Rebellion

4 **The Revolutionary Ideas of Karl Marx**  
Alex Callinicos

5 **The Labour Party—A Marxist History**  
Tony Cliff, Donny Gluckstein and Charlie Kimber

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Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE



**O**N 20 July 1969 an estimated 600 million people around the globe watched in awe as Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon.

The 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission is rightly hailed by many as a pinnacle of human invention.

But it's easy to forget that the joy of scientific discovery was not the true reason behind the project—the more sinister motives are barely mentioned.

Instead of being about scientific development, space exploration was a product of an international arms race.

The drive to land on the moon was powered by the Cold War between the US and Russia.

This “space race” was a battle of technological advancements between the two states that took place between 1955 and 1975.

The US government had long shown an interest in developing these technologies in order to give it the upper hand over rival nation states.

After the Second World War increased efforts were made to advance satellite technology.

The advantages of satellites as a tool for spying undetected on other military powers were recognised in a 1946 US government report which described “great military value” in satellites.

The space race further cemented the drive for advances that could be used in warfare.

The threat of perceived communism invading the West drove further research into the development of intercontinental missile systems.

The US ruling class was determined to win the space race—and would use whatever, or whoever, it took to succeed.

### Critical

Aerospace engineer Wernher von Braun was critical to the development of space technology in the US. He had played a key role in Nazi Germany's rocket development programme. At the end of the war, rather than being put on trial, he was whisked off to the US.

He helped the Nazis develop the deadly V-2 rocket—the world's first long range guided ballistic missile. And in 1945 von Braun described how a rocket orbiting the planet could be used to observe “troop movements” below.

Von Braun wasn't alone.

Around 1,600 scientists, engineers and technicians were secretly moved from Germany to the US through a state scheme called Operation Paperclip. Many were former members, and some were former leaders of the Nazis.

Space technology was intrinsically linked to the



ASTRONAUT BUZZ Aldrin doing the moonwalk

# HOW MOON LANDINGS PROJECTED US POWER

Were moon landings a giant leap forward for humanity, or the culmination of a growing Cold War? Gabby Thorpe boldly goes in search of the legacy of the space race



Wernher von Braun

development of long-range highly powered missiles and used as cover for developing weapons of destruction.

The Cold War in particular cemented this need for technological domination.

In 1957 every country in the world was invited to launch a research satellite into Earth's orbit as part of International Geophysics Year. The US saw this as the perfect opportunity to launch a spy satellite, and was confident that it would be



**The space race drove forward advances in weapon technology**

successful. But Russia beat the US to it, launching the Sputnik I on 4 October 1957.

The Space Race escalated further when Russia sent Yuri Gagarin into orbit. He was the first person to go into space—a victory which terrified the US ruling class.

Democratic politician Lyndon B Johnson echoed many of their fears when he said he didn't want to “go to sleep by a communist moon”.

Russian achievements in the

field were seen as a massive threat by the US establishment.

Old stereotypes surrounding Russia's scientific capabilities were still widely taken up by the US. The idea that Russia was a backwards agricultural state made the threat posed by the success of their space programme all the more ominous.

Because of the secretive nature of US weapons development, an agency was needed that would present a scientific basis for this research.

As a result, the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (Nasa) was created in 1958.

**T**HE US responded to Russia's resounding successes in space travel by launching the Apollo missions in 1961. President John F Kennedy announced that the US would put a person on the moon within the decade.

The Apollo space programme ran between 1961 and 1972. Throughout this period, Nasa's central aim was to beat Russia to the finish line.

Apollo 1 was launched on 21 February 1967 as a test flight, with the aim of reaching the moon's orbit. But design flaws in the engine led to the death of the three crew.

After the tragedy of the first test flight, steps were made to ensure that future flights would be safer. But safety complications continued to be an issue for the project.

Apollo 8 was launched in December 1968—even though the crew thought critical parts of the spacecraft weren't ready.

The decision to go ahead was powered by the fear that Russia would attempt its own landing—and humiliate Nasa in the process. So the US pushed forward, cutting corners, rather than come second in the race.

It was a battle which prioritised speed over safety—and ultimately the lives of workers.

When astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin finally landed on the moon, they left a plaque reading “We came in peace for all mankind.”

Eugene Kranz, one of the flight directors of Apollo 11 said in 2000 that the US had been engaged in an ideological battle “for the minds and hearts of the free people”.

### Dominance

As Kranz shows, people involved openly admitted that the missions were inspired primarily by a need to for dominance.

But Nasa's Apollo programme was an illustration of how governments can pour resources into scientific programmes if the result benefits the state's interest.

The effort required to pull off the Apollo programme spanned many different industries. From mathematicians and engineers to construction workers and caterers, the project brought together workers in a gigantic organised

effort. Around 410,000 people were involved to some degree and the overall project cost £20.3 billion.

The Apollo programme was the largest project undertaken by the US scientific community since the development of the first atomic bomb—the Manhattan Project.

That spanned seven years from 1939 and 1946 and involved 130,000 people.

For many ordinary Americans, the brutality of the Vietnam War overshadowed any showboating by the state.

When Apollo 11 successfully landed back on earth, the future of space travel in the US looked bright. Plans were made to work towards a human mission to Mars.

But the Apollo programme was shut down just a few years later in 1975, allegedly due to a lack of public interest.

In reality, the aims of Apollo had been met.

It had achieved very little beyond an extravagant and expensive show of dominance by competing countries.

### Fascinating

Half a century on, fascinating advances have been made in human's understanding of space but Nasa has yet to top the moon landings.

Little progress was made after the Apollo programme was cancelled. It is only now that plans to send humans to Mars are an aim being worked towards in any meaningful way.

And instead of publicly-funded programmes, space has become the exclusive playground of super-rich billionaires such as Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson.

Apollo didn't bring an end to

the Cold War or the Vietnam War. It also didn't herald a new dawn where technological solutions could solve all of society's problems.

But space exploration managed to engage millions of people inspired by the apparently limitless potential of human creativity and technological development.

It showed how capitalist states are willing and able to pour seemingly endless resources to assert their military



First person in space, Russian astronaut Yuri Gagarin (top) the plaque left by Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong on the moon (above) Apollo 11 (left)



and technological dominance.

Impressive though the Apollo programme is, it was rooted in a nationalistic defence of capitalism.

Under capitalism, every scientific innovation is based around the interests of governments or big business.

So humans could explore space—but only because there was a wider drive to war and demand for better weapon technology.

Under socialism, scientific development would be based on what is socially useful—not what suits the rich.

With human creativity and curiosity its only limit, a socialist society could aim for the stars.

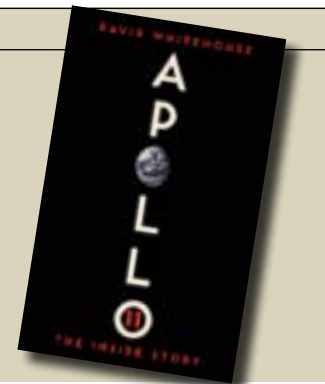
## READ MORE

● **Apollo 11—the inside story**  
by David Whitehouse  
£12.99

● **Walking to a dark future?**  
Socialist Worker article by John Parrington  
bit.ly/MoonFuture

● **Mars—the latest arena for capitalist competition?**  
Socialist Worker article by John Parrington  
bit.ly/Marstravel

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bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



## FOCUS ON HOUSING

# Addison Act anniversary shows there is far to go

Sarah Bates looks at a milestone in the struggle for decent homes and why we still need to fight for better homes 100 years on



THE GLASGOW rent strikes in 1915

THIS WEEK marks the centenary of a watershed moment for the housing movement.

The Addison Act—named after the Liberal minister for housing Christopher Addison—marked a huge step forward in the spread of council housing in Britain.

It was a reaction to growing anger over poor housing, and an attempt to quash revolutionary feeling.

Although it promised funding for 500,000 new homes, ultimately only 213,800 were built under the scheme.

Prime minister David Lloyd George claimed he wanted “homes fit for heroes” after the First World War, but pressure for decent housing came from below.

The Glasgow Rent Strikes in 1915 saw thousands of people, mainly women, organise against landlords who were trying to hike up rents and evict tenants.

Women hurled flour bombs and other missiles at bailiffs who tried to collect rent. An estimated 20,000 households took part in the strike—a fact not missed by politicians in Whitehall.

But prime minister Margaret Thatcher's Right To Buy scheme meant many publicly-owned houses are now privately owned.

For instance, in the year 2000, some 59,000 homes were lost to the private sector through Right to Buy. Yet only 90 new homes were completed in England.

Last year Theresa

**For working class people these homes were a revelation**

working class people have had to fight tooth and nail for decent housing.

After the Second World War, a huge movement of squatters forced the government to take action on providing emergency housing for homeless families.

Since 1953 when 220,000 new homes were built the number of council houses has declined continuously.

By 1977, councils were responsible for more than 40 percent of new house builds—and by 2017 that figure was just 2 percent.

Tory housing minister Kit Malthouse claimed that council housing was “a proud component of putting a roof over the heads of British people.”

But prime minister Margaret Thatcher's Right To Buy scheme meant many publicly-owned houses are now privately owned.

For instance, in the year 2000, some 59,000 homes were lost to the private sector through Right to Buy. Yet only 90 new homes were completed in England.

Last year Theresa

May announced plans to scrap limits on councils' ability to borrow money to build houses.

This borrowing cap made it harder for local authorities to afford to build residential homes.

Ministers said the changes could mean up to 10,000 new homes a year.

### Effective

But there's been a long-term hollowing out of the state infrastructure that's needed to carry out large building projects.

Even Gary Porter, Tory MP and chair of the Local Government Association, is concerned.

“The worry is we haven't really got the internal capacity as organisations build at scale at the moment, because we've had 40 years of having it beaten out of us and nobody's got the resources internally,” he said.

Today in Britain an estimated 124,000 children sleep in temporary accommodation, and over a million people are on housing waiting lists.

Housing is a human right. It's important to demand more good quality, secure and cheap council housing.

The Addison Act didn't produce enough homes, and it didn't stop them from being sold off into private hands.

But it's a reminder that it's not the benevolence at the top of society but rather action from below that forces through change—and that battle still remains today.



# 'Arrogant' cops killed Anthony Grainger

**INCOMPETENT and lying police were entirely responsible for the death of Anthony Grainger in 2012.**

They killed him because of the "seriously misleading" intelligence and leadership by commanding officers who were not "occupationally competent."

That's the conclusion of an inquiry published last week.

But the report found the shooting was not unlawful. And it stops short of recommending any further action against any of the police officers involved.

Anthony was behind the wheel of a car in Cheshire when a Greater Manchester Police (GMP) officer, referred to in court as Q9, fired a submachine gun and killed him.

The report details how two other rounds were fired at the car's tyres. A CS gas canister, which had not been tested or approved by the Home Office, was thrown into the vehicle by another officer.

Q9 told the court from behind a screen in 2017 that he believed Anthony had reached down as if to grab a



**ANTHONY GRAINGER**

firearm. But no firearms were found on Anthony or in the vehicle in March 2012.

The inquiry found Anthony was probably reaching for the door handle to get out of the car.

Anthony and one of his two passengers, David Totton, had for some weeks been the subject of a police operation,

Operation Shire. This was investigating their claimed involvement in robberies.

Judge Thomas Teague said police were using a profile of Anthony which included "serious inaccuracies, presenting a distorted and in some respects exaggerated picture of the threat Mr Grainger presented". In fact

there was "no intelligence" to suggest Anthony was "armed or had immediate access to firearms".

Commanding officers "lacked the requisite level of professional competence", and planning was "inadequate and ineffective".

The report found officers had misled the inquiry

when giving evidence. Judge Teague said the force had a culture of "secrecy" and also of "arrogant disdain for the views of others," repeatedly seeking not to disclose certain relevant material.

He also said that its tactical firearms unit had a "general disinclination" to expose its decisions and actions to external scrutiny—a culture he believes persists.

Anthony's family issued a statement after the result of the inquiry was released.

It said, "The damning report catalogues dishonesty and corruption at the highest level of GMP.

"Senior officers lied to the inquiry.

"The failings extend to the very top of GMP with two assistant chief constables criticised for giving misleading evidence."

Gail Hadfield-Grainger, Anthony's partner, said, "It has taken seven years but some justice has been done today for Anthony.

"It also exposes that even now in 2019, GMP is unfit to control firearms operations.

"This is a scandal, which places other lives at risk."

## How did Nuno die?

**THE INQUEST** into the death of student Nuno Cardoso in Oxford on 24 November 2017 heard evidence last week.

The inquest heard he had been struck with a police baton.

A post-mortem had concluded that the cause of death was cardiorespiratory arrest due to combined intoxication from alcohol, cocaine and morphine.

Nuno was arrested at Ruskin College in Oxford.

Jurors at the inquest saw video footage of him being wrestled to the ground by police after reports of him possessing a knife and attacking students.

Police took Nuno to Abingdon police station. On the way he collapsed.

Nuno later died in hospital.

The inquest continues.

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# How suppressed report reveals horror of Nakba

A report—hidden for years, now uncovered—reveals the crimes during the creation of Israel in the words of those who committed them, writes Nick Clark

**IT'S THE document that Israel doesn't want you to read.**

An intelligence report—once public, then hidden, now freshly uncovered again—reveals the truth about the ethnic cleansing of Palestine, straight from the source.

Written in 1948 by Shai, precursor to intelligence service Shin Bet, it lists in order of importance the reasons why Palestinians were fleeing their homes.

The most important reason, it says, was “hostile actions against Arab communities” by the armed groups that went on to form Israel’s army.

“Some 70 percent of the residents left their communities and migrated as a result of these actions.”

What this reveals is so embarrassing to the Israeli state that its defence ministry had it removed from public archives for years.

A copy of it was only recently rediscovered by researchers from Israeli NGO Akevot, which translated it into English and published it online.

It describes quite openly how, “without a doubt, hostilities were the main factor” behind the flight of Palestinians.

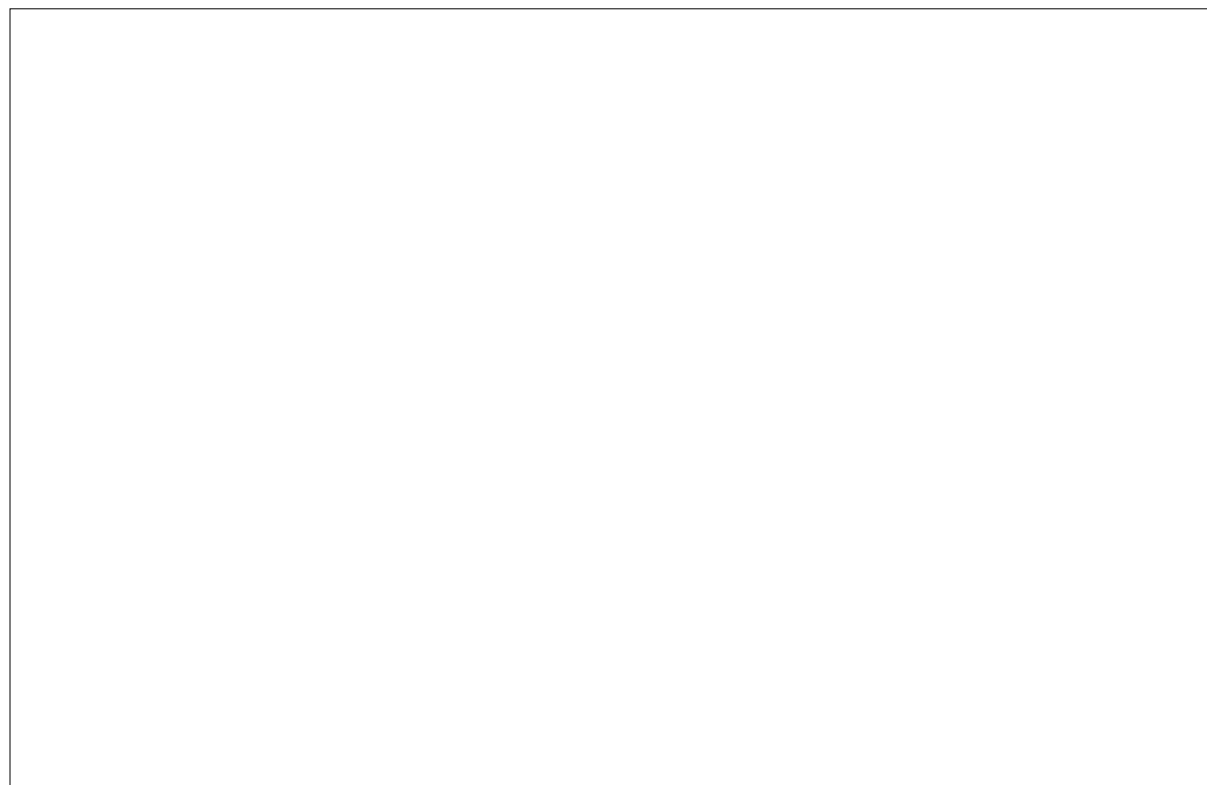
“Each and every district underwent a wave of migration as our actions in that area intensified and expanded.”

## Flight

Many of the other reasons for the flight of Palestinians flow from this.

For instance, the report’s author realises that an attack on one village would cause residents of neighbouring villages to flee too.

“Actions had no lesser effect on neighbouring communities as they did on the community that was the direct target of the action. The evacuation of a certain village as a



ISRAELI FIGHTERS with Palestinian prisoners

result of us attacking it swept with it many neighbouring villages.”

It also finds that “it was not always the intensity of the attack that was decisive, as other factors became particularly prominent—mostly psychological factors.”

“Long stints of shelling with extremely loud blasts, and loudspeakers in Arabic proved very effective when properly used,” it says.

And “ultimatums” to Arab villages—threats to get out—played a role too, along with “whispering

operations [psychological warfare] intended to drive Arabs to flee.”

“Of course, these ultimatums” it says, “came after the stage had been set to some extent by hostilities in the area.

“Therefore, these ultimatums were more of a final push than the decisive factor.”

Perhaps most revealing of all is the long annex at the end of the document. It’s a table listing hundreds of Palestinian villages along with how many people lived in each and

whether the village was fully or only partially cleared.

These could be “threats and our whispering operations,” such as at the village of Qaitiyya. More often they speak of violence, such as “our attack on them,” at Fir’im, “Destruction of village by us” at Ein Zaitun, or “conquest and expulsion” at Zarnuga.

Chillingly, terse annotations alongside each village record what happened to the population.

Some of them say, simply, “Many killed.”

## People were forced out...

**ONE** lie told by Israel and its supporters is that Palestinians weren’t forced to leave, they just chose to or were ordered to by Arab authorities.

This document puts an end to that lie.

It says that Arab authorities did evacuate some villages “for strategic reasons,” and that a wealthy strata of Palestinians chose to emigrate before the war. But, “Compared to other factors, this element did not have decisive weight.”

Instead, the impact of “Jewish military action (Haganah and Dissidents) on the migration was decisive, as some 70 percent of the residents left their communities and migrated as a result of these actions”.

## ...and stopped from returning

**FROM** the very beginning, Israel fought to stop Palestinian refugees returning to their homes.

The report describes how the Haganah attacked some villages twice, first to clear it and then to force out anyone who came back.

“There was also a movement of return to villages that had been evacuated, which forced us to engage, on more than one occasion, in expelling residents of a certain village,” it says.

## Complicity of the British

**BEFORE** Israel was founded, Palestine was occupied by the British Empire. Yet the attacks on the Palestinians began even before Britain left—and the British army did next to nothing to stop them.

Britain agreed to the plan that split Palestine in two, then left the Palestinians to their fate.

The report says that Britain’s departure “did, of course, help evacuation.

“But it appears that more than affecting migration directly, the British evacuation freed our hands to take action.”

## ‘Why we hid the truth’

**THE DOCUMENT** is one of many quietly censored or removed from archives by Malmab, the Israeli defence ministry’s security department.

Israeli newspaper Haaretz says it spoke to former Malmab head Yehiel Horev, who began the project.

“He maintains that it makes sense to conceal

the events of 1948, because uncovering them could generate unrest among the country’s Arab population,” Haaretz reports.

“Asked what the point is of removing documents that have already been published, he explained that the objective is to undermine the credibility of studies about the history of the refugee problem.”

Yehiel Horev

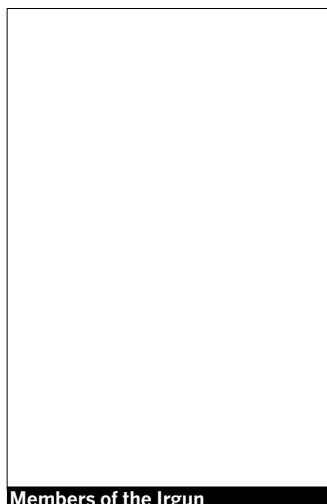
## The militias behind massacres

**THE DOCUMENT** talks about the effectiveness of actions by “dissidents”—the Irgun and Lehi militias not part of the official army the Haganah.

These were responsible for the most notorious massacre of a Palestinian village, Deir Yassin, in April 1948, killing over 100 Palestinians.

Stories of what happened there—spread by the militias themselves—of how many were killed, were designed to strike fear into Palestinians.

The report says, “The



Members of the Irgun

Deir Yassin action had a particular impact on the Arab psyche.

## Launched

“Much of the immediate fleeing seen when we launched our attacks was panic flight resulting from that factor, which can be defined as a decisive catalyst.”

It also points to tacit approval of action by the “dissidents”.

Some villages, such as Deir Yassin, had signed “non—aggression pacts” with the Haganah and nearby Jewish settlements.



## IN BRIEF

**Housing repair staff get set for strikes**

HOUSING REPAIR workers in Newham, east London, are set to strike for five days over a new pay structure and a host of other issues.

Around 50 carpenters, electricians and plumbers who work for Newham council are fighting a 20 percent pay cut and a bullying culture.

The Unite union members are due to walk out on 2, 5, 23 and 27 August and 11 September.

**Unite calls off Drax action after offer**

STRIKES AT Drax power station in Yorkshire have been suspended.

Some 400 Unite union members had planned to stage six 48-hour walkouts alongside GMB colleagues.

Unite is recommending that workers vote to accept a new two-year pay offer. It would mean a 2.8 percent rise from January 2018 and 3 percent from January 2020.

**Parliament protest for Royal Navy staff**

ROYAL NAVY Lifeline workers, who provide catering and other services, planned to protest at parliament on Wednesday of this week.

The RMT union plans a programme of action, including a work to rule, involving nearly 700 workers at the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

It is fighting a 1.5 percent pay deal. The protest takes place from 12.30pm.

**FBU declares a dispute in Hereford**

THE firefighters' FBU union in Hereford and Worcester has lodged a trade dispute over "confrontational" management.

It said bosses have imposed new duty systems and contracts without meaningful consultation.

It will consider industrial action if the dispute isn't resolved by 9 August.

**Loulou's activists arrested in Mayfair**

TWO PROTESTERS outside the Loulou's private members club in Mayfair, London, were arrested last week.

They are part of a campaign demanding the London Living Wage of £10.25 an hour and sick pay. In response to the arrests, protesters returned the following night for a flash mob protest.

**GMB protests mark Amazon Prime day**

THE GMB union began a series of protests over working conditions at Amazon on Monday.

The protests started on the first "Amazon Prime" day—two days of sales by the multinational firm.

## FOOD



WORKERS JOINED an unofficial strike at a North Yorkshire factory last week

# Unofficial action over pay hits food factory

HUNDREDS OF workers at Karro Foods in Malton, North Yorkshire, struck unofficially for two days last week over pay.

Workers demanded a 50p per hour rise after hearing a rival business was offering workers more money for the same job.

When it was refused they walked out.

Some workers travel 36 miles each way from Hull every day to the factory.

A man whose dad lives in Hull and works at Karro Foods told the Hull Live website,

"Around three or four hundred people are striking outside the factory.

"Basically staff want a pay rise. They work very hard and they want equal pay.

"My dad has been working at the company for around eight years.

"He gets up early in the morning and picks other people up who live in Hull, and they drive there together."

The Usdaw union organises at the factory but was not involved in the strike.

An Usdaw spokesperson

said, "We are aware of a number of issues and concerns staff have at the Malton site.

"Udaw is due to meet the company next week to seek to resolve them.

"The action that has been taken is unofficial."

Karro Foods is a leading producer of bacon, gammon, sausages and cooked meats. It employs around 3,000 people across Britain.

It is owned by private equity firm CapVest Partners and recently grabbed Young's Seafood.

## JUSTICE FOR GRENFELL



Marching for Grenfell in west London last week

## Hundreds join silent walk

HUNDREDS OF people marched to remember those who died in the Grenfell Tower fire last Sunday on the 25th Silent Walk.

The march came as Kensington and Chelsea council floated plans to shut down the Scrutiny Committee, which was set up to provide some level of accountability.

One community activist told the march on Sunday, "While the process of the scrutiny committee has been problematic at times, the

question should have been about how to make it better rather than scrapping it. This battle is far from over."

The Scrutiny Committee news comes as the council also proposed shutting down The Curve community centre, which has been central to providing support for survivors and the bereaved.

It has provided support for around 1,000 people every day, yet now the council views the £1.5 million annual cost as too high a price.

*Alistair Farrow*

## DURHAM MINERS' GALA



Thousands turned out for the Durham Miners' Gala last Saturday

## TRANSPORT

## Report highlights dangers on the tracks

THE RMT union has called for an absolute ban on contracting out after a shocking report into the death of a track worker.

It found that the man killed by a passenger train in south London was on a zero hours contract, probably fatigued, and exposed to danger.

Safety inspectors demanded that Network Rail reviews its outsourced labour suppliers.

The Rail Accident

Investigation Branch (RAIB) report said the man had been placing equipment on the track at Stoats Nest Junction, near Purley, last autumn.

He was walking with his back to the train, which was travelling at about 69 mph.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said, "Once again the RAIB has criticised safety standards for the protection of track workers.

"This latest report should force real change across the

industry right now.

"Warning after warning from this trade union on fatigue, zero hours and casualisation has not been properly addressed by Network Rail or the safety regulator.

"For all the talk of a modern, digital railway those in charge can't even guarantee basic levels of safety for track workers."

Two track workers were killed at the beginning of this month in South Wales.

## HITACHI/GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

## Cleaners walk out over changes to shifts

CLEANERS ON the Hitachi/Great Western Railway contract staged a solid 48-hour strike on Tuesday and Wednesday last week.

Strikers are employed by outsourcing giant ISS and are based at the North Pole Depot in west London.

The RMT members are striking against changes to shift patterns that would wreck their work-life balance.



On the picket line in west London

PICTURE: RMT/TWITTER

## AIRPORTS

HEATHROW Airport could grind to a halt this summer as 4,000 workers threaten strikes.

Workers across the airport's five terminals are set to walkout for six days in July and August.

They are set to strike after rejecting a 2.7 percent 18 month pay offer.

Their Unite union says it works out to just £3.75 a day extra for the lowest paid workers.

Workers are furious about their poverty pay while Heathrow chief executive

pocketed £4.2 million in basic pay in 2018.

Unite officer Wayne King, said, "We will not allow Heathrow bosses to get away with low pay."

"All our members are seeking is a pay deal which recognises their important role in keeping passengers safe and on the move, in addition to a commitment by Heathrow bosses to close pay disparities which are leading to a high turnover of staff." Workers are set to strike on Friday and Saturday of next week, as well as on 5, 6, 23 and 24 August.

## STANSTED

SOME 43 Unite union members at Stansted Airport in Essex are set to walk out for 17 days across July and August.

The check-in workers are employed by Stobart Aviation Services.

Bosses are refusing to pay wages in line with other workers doing similar jobs.

Workers are also fighting a comprehensive breakdown in industrial relations and for union recognition.

They are set to strike on Thursday of next week, 29 July and for 15 days in August.

## GATWICK

TWO GROUPS of workers at Gatwick Airport are balloting for strikes.

Some 100 Unite union members who scan luggage for explosive material and other dangerous items are fighting for a 50p increase to their £8.50 hourly rate.

Facilities workers employed by outsourcing giant ISS, also members of Unite, are also fighting for better pay.

Management have reneged on a previous offer of an increase in April 2019.

The ballots end on 26 July.



## HEALTHWORKERS

# Bradford battles to defend NHS status

by LESLEY MCGORRIGAN and UMIT YILDIZ

**PORTERS, DOMESTICS and security staff at Bradford Teaching Hospitals Trust struck for seven days last week.**

They are fighting to stop the transfer of 600 workers to a trust-owned subsidiary company.

The move would open the door to future privatisation and worsening terms of employment.

Up to 175 strikers in the Unison union picketed the hospital every day from 5.30am to 3.30pm.

Altogether some 300 workers took part in the strike at Bradford Royal Infirmary and St Luke's hospital.

## Confident

Picket lines were confident and lively, with music and donated food.

Some pickets had been nervous at the beginning of the strike.

But they were transformed within hours by the sense of camaraderie.

They spoke of how picketing made them feel in control of their situation.

Since the strike began, management are struggling with cleaning toilets themselves



PICKETING AT Bradford Royal Infirmary

PICTURE: UNISON BRADFORD HEALTH BRANCH

and spending huge sums on Rentokil services. Passing vehicles honked their horns in support. A bus driver stopped and talked about how privatisation had wrecked jobs in the local bus service.

Amandeep Singh, Unison convenor at Bradford Teaching Hospitals said, "This isn't about money, this is about losing something that is held very dear by workers here. "They don't

want to lose their NHS status. They are also very worried about backdoor privatisation of the NHS"

He continued, "We have very strong support. We have a mandate for further sustained action if we cannot get the outcome that we are hoping for."

Urgent talks were due with management this week.

But the strikers were clear that they will be continuing

action if they don't win. Strikes, and the threat of strikes, by Unison members has seen victories over similar issues at other trusts.

These include Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Foundation Trust, Mid-Yorkshire NHS Hospitals Trust and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust. Further action, backed by the whole union, can win in Bradford too.

## SCHOOLS

## Frustration after Sats result

THE NEU union plans to consult some of its members on whether to ballot for local boycotts of Sats tests.

In an indicative ballot across England, some 59 percent voted in favour of boycotting Sats. The turnout was 39 percent.

Ten out of 170 districts delivered both a turnout of 50 percent or higher and 40 percent or more in favour of taking action. These are the threshold requirements that would need to be met

in a formal ballot in order to satisfy the anti-union laws.

The NEU had planned to follow the indicative ballot with a formal ballot. But at an NEU executive meeting last Saturday its general secretaries, Kevin Courtney and Mary Boustead, argued against this based on the indicative results.

They agreed to consult districts that met the ballot thresholds over whether there should be ballots for district boycotts.

## ANTI-ACADEMIES

## Brighton anti-academy fight

A MARCH in support of the campaign to stop the academisation of Moulsecoomb Primary School in Brighton attracted 300 people last Saturday.

Marchers were supported by motorists and passers-by as they made their way to the centre of the city for a rally.

It was addressed by teachers, parents and school students, who all called for the school to remain under local authority control.

The campaign has the full support of the NEU union.

Teachers from another school facing academisation— Peacehaven

Community School—attended the rally in a show of solidarity. **Steve Guy**

■ **WORKERS AT** The John Roan School in Greenwich, south east London, started a two-day strike on Tuesday.

The walkout will take the number of strike days taken by NEU union members at the school to 20.

Strikers are fighting a plan to turn the school into an academy.

The United Learning Trust plans to take over the running of the school from September.

● Send messages of support to [johnroannut@gmail.com](mailto:johnroannut@gmail.com)

## SCHOOL CLOSURE



Parents and teachers united

PICTURE: BRENT NEU

## Threatened school 'like a family'

WORKERS AT Strathcona School in Wembley, north west London, struck on Wednesday of last week for the second time. The NEU union members are fighting to keep the school open.

Parents and children joined strikers at Brent Civic Centre to leaflet the public.

Pupil Siluan Buliga said, "I learned English with the help of the teachers. Without the school

we won't have knowledge." His mother Oana said the school is "like a family".

● Say no to the closure of Strathcona school—email [StrathconaConsultation@brent.gov.uk](mailto:StrathconaConsultation@brent.gov.uk) or write to Michael Rollin, Children and Young People, 5th Floor, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ. Send messages of support to [Lesley.gouldbourne@neu.org.uk](mailto:Lesley.gouldbourne@neu.org.uk)

## HASLAND HALL

ALMOST 20 Teachers at Hasland Hall Community School in Chesterfield have begun a series of one-day strikes.

NASUWT union members have concerns about workload and the way school leaders respond to children's

unacceptable behaviour. They walked out on Tuesday of this week, following a strike last Tuesday.

It's right to fight over workload and cuts, but children's rights should be also considered.

**Jeannie Robinson**

## IT WORKERS



The 'Darth Reaper' must be resisted

## Battle to save jobs at DXC

WORKERS threatened with redundancy are fighting back at the Chesterfield branch of IT firm DXC.

Bosses want to axe around 300 jobs.

They held demonstrations on four days last week and rallied with a "Darth Reaper".

Unite union members are readying for a strike

ballot. Unite rep Colin Walker told Socialist Worker, "The protests are important because they show the company we're not accepting redundancies and we won't take this lying down."

● Messages of support to [chesterfieldunite@gmail.com](mailto:chesterfieldunite@gmail.com) and [Tom.Sawyer@unitetheunion.org](mailto:Tom.Sawyer@unitetheunion.org)

## UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

## Against cuts & outsourcing

WORKERS AND students at Portsmouth university held a protest on Wednesday of last week over planned job cuts. The protest lobbied governors as they arrived for a meeting.

The UCU union said governors should use their influence to block planned cuts in the science department.

Some 123 academic posts are at risk there, and the UCU said up to 50 jobs could go.

It also said it could ballot for strikes if bosses don't rule out compulsory redundancies.

■ **UCU UNION** members at Sandwell College have been voting on whether to strike in defence of victimised union rep Dave

Muritu. Bosses there sacked Dave earlier this year after he wrote the word "racist" on a Prevent poster.

Workers, students and other trade unionists have held several protests in his defence, and to demand his immediate reinstatement.

■ **OUTSOURCED** workers at the University of London held a "welcoming ceremony" for the new vice chancellor, Wendy Thomson last week.

The protest was part of their long-running campaign to be brought in-house.

Thomson previously headed up the Office of Public Service Reform in the Cabinet Office in Tony Blair's second government.

The workers are in the IWGB union.



# JOHNSON BIDS FOR BOSS VOTE

by SADIE ROBINSON

**BORIS JOHNSON is set to be the next prime minister and Tory leader.**

He spent the last part of his campaign spelling out why he would be the best candidate to help Britain's bosses.

Some of his ideas sounded like they would help ordinary people. But his real concern is for the rich.

So Johnson said he backed an "amnesty" for so-called "illegal" migrants that would see their criminal status removed after a period of time.

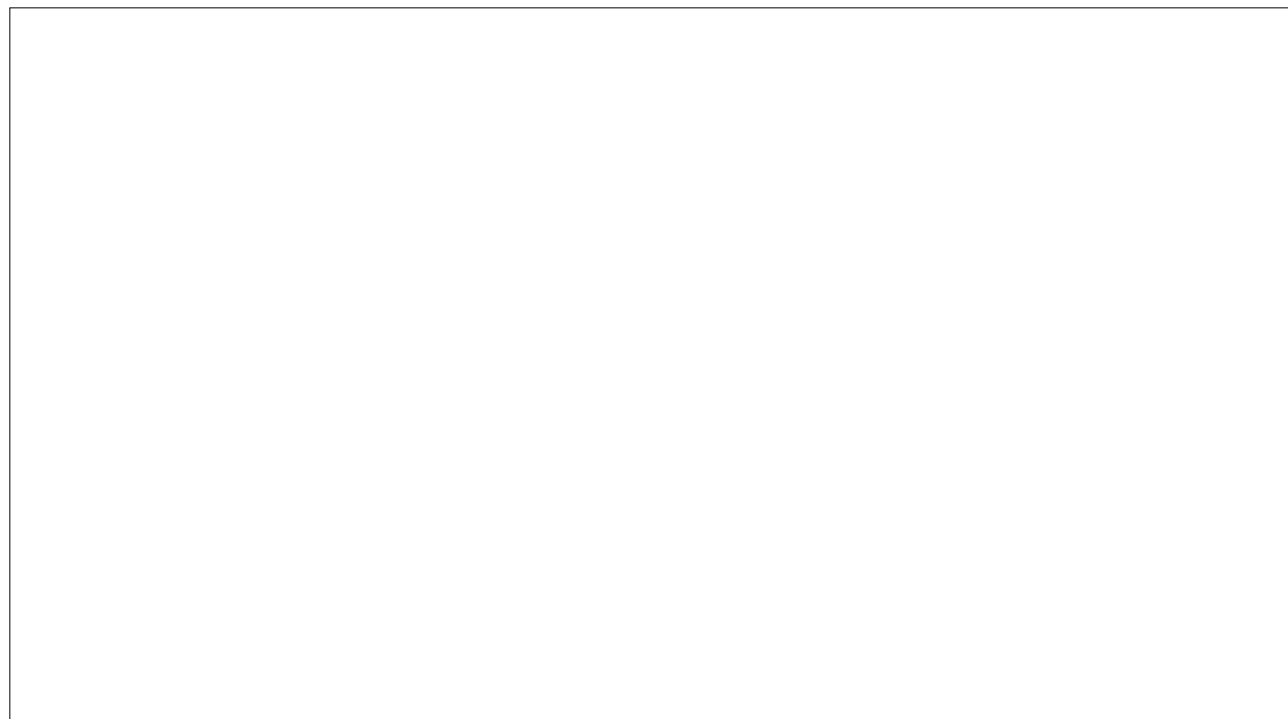
But this isn't geared towards making migrants' lives better—it's about what Johnson thinks is good for business.

So he complained that there are "half a million people in London" who "are not able to take part in the economy" or "pay taxes" because they aren't legally allowed to be here.

## Backing

He reiterated his backing for an Australian-style points-based immigration system.

This would see bosses get the labour they need when they need it, at the expense of migrants' rights. And Johnson



**BORIS JOHNSON'S ideas sound like they would be good for ordinary people, but they're not**

would want migrants to work in Britain for "12 years or more" before they can get an amnesty.

He also wants to be tougher on new migrants to avoid creating a "pull factor" and "an upsurge in illegal migration".

Johnson also set out his

plans to deal with mental distress issues and make ordinary people happier.

He praised a therapy "that lifts the spirits of hundreds of millions if not billions of people around the world—work".

For Johnson, people should have the

"counselling and help they need to do their jobs," not simply to be happier for its own sake.

Apparently the "best therapy of all" is "continued job satisfaction".

His real concern is how cutting stress and mental health problems can boost

"productivity". "Of all the working days lost to ill health in this country, 57 percent are due to stress, depression or anxiety," he moaned.

And he cited research showing that these problems "reduce national productivity by £84 billion per year".

Johnson also found a way

to make this apparent concern for ordinary people's wellbeing into a mechanism for throwing more money at the rich.

He said bosses that provide counselling and other support for workers should get tax breaks.

## Deliver

Johnson has prioritised doing deals with racist US president Donald Trump as part of his drive to deliver Brexit.

"The key to the whole thing is the US," said one Johnson supporter.

"If we get a trade deal with America it encourages others to realise that we mean business."

Johnson's pledge to leave the European Union "do or die" by 31 October will mean continuing rows and divisions within the Tory party.

We need to seize on their weakness.

Johnson's victory will mean more racism and more attacks on workers—but the answer isn't his rival Jeremy Hunt. We need to ramp up the resistance to get all the Tories out.

Join the People's Assembly protests in London 22 July and Manchester 29 September  
For more info visit [bit.ly/peoplesassembly](http://bit.ly/peoplesassembly)

## Hunt's promises of peace with Iran mean nothing—resist the drive to war

FOREIGN secretary Jeremy Hunt has said that the collapse of a nuclear deal with Iran would "represent an existential threat to mankind".

He claims to act as a protector of the peace. Yet his approach so far has been to send multiple warships to the Gulf and to use troops against an Iranian oil tanker in international waters.

The nuclear deal, agreed in 2015, saw Iran agree to limits on its reactor programme in return for sanctions relief.

But US president



Donald Trump withdrew from the agreement in May last year, and reimposed sanctions.

In response, Iran's president Hassan Rouhani said Iran would increase its uranium enrichment beyond the threshold agreed in the deal. The rows have led to increasing tensions.

The latest episode saw Royal Marines seize an oil tanker near Gibraltar on 4 July.

Authorities claimed the tanker was taking crude oil to Syria, which is subject to European

Union sanctions. Iran denounced the "illegal seizure" and foreign ministry spokesperson Abbas Mousavi called it a "form of piracy".

## Threat

Britain raised its threat level for British ships in Iranian waters to "critical" on Tuesday of last week—the highest level.

The next day, three Iranian gun boats "harassed" oil tanker British Heritage in the Strait of Hormuz.

They left after the Royal Navy frigate HMS Montrose

trained its guns on them.

Now Britain has sent a second warship, HMS Duncan, to the Gulf.

Hunt said the detained tanker could be released if Iran guaranteed that it would not go to Syria. Iran demanded it be released immediately.

The West is painting Iran as a threat to justify attacks—and ratcheting up the risk of war.

Colonel Kemp claimed that "only with very stiff resistance will they get the message."

We must resist the West's war drive.